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PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

10 OCTOBER 1983

The Prime Minister today sent the following message to President Chun of South Korea:

May I express to you on behalf of the Australian Government and people our deep shock in learning of the tragedy which befell your party in Rangoon. The reasons for such a callous outrage are beyond imagination. A number of your Ministers and officials who died in Rangoon were well and warmly known to me and other members of my government.

On behalf of the Australian Government and people I wish to express our condolences to you and to the Korean people and our support for your government at this troubled time. Would you please also convey to the families of those who died our deep sympathy. We wish a speedy recovery to the injured.

We had been looking forward to your visit. Cooperation and friendship with the Republic of Korea are of great importance to Australia's future. I look forward to your visit taking place at a happier time.

R.J.L. Hawke