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## PRIME MINISTER

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER ON THE OCCASION OF LAUNCHING OF PRIMARY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM - 23 JANUARY 1984

- . THE GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVES IN SPORT ARE TWOFOLD; TO PROMOTE EXCELLENCE AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS IN A NUMBER OF SPORTS, AND TO ENCOURAGE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN SPORT AMONG ALL SECTIONS OF THE AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY.
- . THESE OBJECTIVES ARE MUTUALLY REINFORCING: IF THE AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC IN GENERAL, AND THE YOUTH OF AUSTRALIA IN PARTICULAR, CAN TAKE JUSTIFICABLE PRIDE IN THE PERFORMANCE AND CONDUCT OF OUR TOP SPORTSMEN AND SPORTSWOMEN, THEY ARE MORE LIKELY THEMSELVES TO SEE VALUE IN PLAYING SPORT. AND IF ALL AUSTRALIANS CAN BE ENCOURAGED TO DO THIS, WHETHER IT BE COMPETITIVE OR NON-COMPETITIVE, WE WILL BE A HEALTHIER NATION FOR IT.
- . AS A SPORT CRICKET HAS MUCH TO OFFER YOUNG PEOPLE. IT HELPS TO DEVELOP CO-ORDINATION AT AN EARLY STAGE, PARTICULARLY OF HAND AND EYE, AND IT IS ALSO A TEAM SPORT, SO INTRODUCING YOUNG PEOPLE AT AN EARLY STAGE TO THE DISCIPLINE REQUIRED IN CO-OPERATIVE EFFORT.
- . IT IS BOTH FOR THESE REASONS, AND BECAUSE I PERSONALLY HAVE DERIVED ENORMOUS PLEASURE FROM PARTICIPATING IN AND WATCHING CRICKET SINCE MY OWN YOUTH, THAT I AM DELIGHTED BY THE ANNOUNCEMENT TODAY OF THE PRIMARY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

. IT IS A PROGRAM THAT WILL GIVE AUSTRALIAN BOYS AND GIRLS A CHANCE TO ENJOY THEMSELVES, GAIN HEALTHY RECREATION, AND HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN HOW TO PLAY CRICKET.

. IT WILL ALSO CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO ENSURING THAT CRICKET REMAINS AN IMPORTANT SPORT IN SCHOOLS, AND THE ENJOYMENT ASSOCIATED WITH THE GAME DOES NOT BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PRESERVE OF THE "BIGGEST AND BEST".

. AND I AM PARTICULARLY PLEASED THAT A NUMBER OF PAST AND PRESENT AUSTRALIAN (AND ENGLISH) TEST CRICKETING GREATS ARE PRESENT TODAY FOR THE LAUNCHING OF THE PROGRAM, THUS PROVIDING ADDITIONAL INSPIRATION AND INCENTIVE - IF IT IS NEEDED - FOR YOUNG AUSTRALIAN CRICKET PLAYERS

- IN PARTICULAR WE HAVE FOUR AUSTRALIAN CAPTAINS IN RICHIE BENAUD, IAN CHAPPELL, GREG CHAPPELL AND PRESENT SKIPPER KIM HUGHES, AND THE GREATEST FAST BOWLER OF ALL TIME IN DENNIS LILLEE AND ONE OF THE FASTEST EVER BOWLERS IN FRANK TYSON

- THE LEADERSHIP OF THESE FOUR CAPTAINS HAS CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO AUSTRALIA'S OUTSTANDING RECORD AS A CRICKET NATION FOR MUCH OF THE LAST TWO DECADES

- DURING THAT PERIOD THE INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCES OF RICHIE BENAUD, IAN CHAPPELL, GREG CHAPPELL, KIM HUGHES AND DENNIS LILLEE HAVE ALSO CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO THAT OUTCOME, AS WELL AS SUBSTANTIALLY REWRITING THE RECORD BOOKS
  
- AND I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE CONTRIBUTION THEY HAVE MADE TO AUSTRALIAN CRICKET (A CONTRIBUTION WHICH I TRUST WILL BE SUSTAINED IN THREE CASES WHEN THEY TAKE THE FIELD TOMORROW FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S XI).

IT IS AUSTRALIAN SPORTSMEN AND SPORTSWOMEN SUCH AS THOSE PRESENT FOR THIS LAUNCHING THAT HAVE GIVEN AUSTRALIA THE WORLD REPUTATION IT HAS AS A SPORTING NATION. IT IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT THAT WE STRIVE TO GIVE OUR YOUTH EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO ENJOY HEALTHY RECREATION.

"KANGA CRICKET" AS THE PROGRAM WILL BE CALLED IS A MOST IMAGINATIVE AND PROGRESSIVE STEP TOWARDS ACHIEVING THIS OBJECTIVE, AND I CONGRATULATE AUSTRALIAN CRICKET BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR FRED BENNETT AND HIS ADMINISTRATORS ON FORMULATING THE PROGRAM, AND MR MALCOLM VAWSER ON THE AUSTRALIAN DAIRY CORPORATION'S INVOLVEMENT.

- . AND I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE SOME OBSERVATIONS THAT I HAVE DEVELOPED MORE GENERALLY IN REGARD TO GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR SPORT IN A SMALLER DEMOCRATIC NATION SUCH AS AUSTRALIA. FIRST, WE FEEL THAT THE OBLIGATIONS AND BENEFITS SHOULD BE SHARED EQUITABLY WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AS IS THE CASE WITH OTHER ENDEAVOURS IN OUR SOCIETY. SECOND, WE DO NOT WISH TO CONCENTRATE ALL OUR RESOURCES ON ELITE SPORTSMEN AND SPORTSWOMEN, AND RATHER TO ENSURE THAT SOME OF THESE FLOW THROUGH TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY.
  
- . THE CO-OPERATIVE EFFORTS OF THE AUSTRALIAN CRICKET BOARD, THE AUSTRALIAN DAIRY CORPORATION AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WITH THE PRIMARY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ARE INDICATIVE OF WHAT CAN BE ACHIEVED WITHIN SUCH A FRAMEWORK.
  
- . GOOD LUCK TO "KANGA CRICKET" IN THE YEARS AHEAD.