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PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

15 July 1984

The Prime Minister, Mr. Hawke, and the Premier of New South Wales, Mr. Wran, today jointly announced that rewards totalling \$500,000 were being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for attacks on members of the Family Court of Australia. These were -

- . The murder of Mr. Justice Opas
- . The bombing of the home of Mr. Justice Gee
- . The bombing of the home of Mr. Justice Watson, in which Mrs. Watson was murdered.

They said that the New South Wales and Commonwealth Governments would each contribute \$250,000.

The reward offered will be effective as from today and any person who believed he had information which could assist the police should contact the joint NSW Police and Australian Federal Police Task Force on telephone number 062/733677.

The Prime Minister and the Premier said that the rewards were being offered in an attempt to bring police investigations to a speedy and successful conclusion. They said that attempts to intimidate the judiciary were an attack on the very foundations of a rational society and must be stopped.

The reward is the biggest of its kind ever offered by Governments in Australia.

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