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PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

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Thirty nine years ago today an atomic bomb destroyed the Japanese city of Hiroshima. Three days later a second weapon was dropped on the city of Nagasaki. Nuclear weapons have not since been used in war but the world's stockpile of these weapons has grown from a mere handful in 1945 to in excess of 50,000 today.

The memory of the appalling sacrifices made by the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki must never dim. Avoiding nuclear war has become an absolute imperative. Nothing less than global survival is at stake.

Since coming to power the Government has taken a number of steps to ensure that Australia plays its full part in meeting this fundamental challenge. On behalf of the Government I wish once again to mark Hiroshima Day by reaffirming our dedication to the pursuit of world peace and our commitment to policies designed to halt and reverse the arms race.