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## PRIME MINISTER

17 September 1984

The Prime Minister has sent the following message to the new Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Shimon Peres:

"Dear Shimon,

It is a pleasure to be able to extend to you my best wishes and those of the Australian Government and the Australian Labor Party on your appointment as Prime Minister of Israel.

I remember warmly your message to me and my party in 1983 and, in particular, your hope that closer ties between our peoples and our parties would eventuate.

In congratulating you and the Israel Labour Party on negotiating and leading a National Unity Government, let me re-emphasize that hope and our shared hope also for peace and security for all in the Middle East.

I am confident that your personal contribution, in your new role, to the resolution of the problems facing Israel and its region will be of great and lasting value.

I wish you and the National Unity Government well in the challenging tasks ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Bob Hawke"