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## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

31 OCTOBER 1984

I have sent the following message to His Excellency Mr Zail Singh, the President of India:

I was shocked and deeply saddened to learn that Prime Minister Gandhi has died as a result of the shameful act of violence perpetrated earlier today.

The Australian Government deplores this wanton act of terrorism.

Mrs Gandhi was an outstanding leader whose courage, strength and guidance will be greatly missed, not only by the people of India, but throughout the world. In Australia, she worked with and was greatly respected by Mr Whitlam, Mr Fraser and myself.

On behalf of the Government and people of Australia I offer through you to the Government and people of India our sincere sympathy at your nation's loss.

I would ask that you also convey my personal sympathies to Mrs Gandhi's family.