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PRIME MINISTER

COMMENTS ON BUSHFIRES IN LOCAL AREA - 3 March 1985

E & O E - PROOF ONLY

JOURNALIST: ... effected by the bushfires yesterday.

P.M.: Yes, I extend on behalf of the Government my sincere sympathy to them, particularly of course to the families of the two dead men. And I trust that with the change in weather circumstances that have now appeared today that these tragic fires will be able to be brought under control. And we of course stand ready, as we do in these circumstances, to provide the appropriate and necessary assistance according to the normal facilities that are provided in these circumstances. I hope that now as we are coming to the end of what has been a hot, dry summer around here the people will be able settle down to a normal life again without the terrible apprehension that must have been there for very many weeks now with this very, very dry, hot summer. I just noticed when I was going out to the airport the day before yesterday just how very, very dry it was and I said to my driver it looked a bit dangerous. Unfortunately, we got those terrible winds yesterday and it was a cauldron(?).