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PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

23 August 1985

I am aware that there has recently been public criticism of the work of the Australian Bicentennial Authority from a number of sources.

I wish to make it clear that I have complete confidence in the Authority, and its Chairman, Mr John Reid and his Board. They have the full support of the Government in their important task of giving direction to and managing the preparations for the Bicentenary. I look forward to continuing to work with them in the future, and I am confident that as a result of their efforts the celebrations in our Bicentennial year 1988 will be a resounding success.

The Board of the Authority of course comprises representatives of the Commonwealth, the six States and the Northern Territory. The staff of the Authority has been headed by Mr David Armstrong, who today resigned from his position of General Manager. The Government is appreciative of his contribution to the development of plans by the Authority for the Bicentennial year.

It is important that the Australian community, as well as governments, give the Authority its full support. I have in mind here particularly major corporations and businesses, as well as individuals.

It is important that the Authority be given all possible financial support and assistance now to help it in its important task, and I am confident this support will be forthcoming.