



## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

18 NOVEMBER 1985

The Federal Government will contribute \$2 million towards emergency relief operations following the disastrous eruption of the Nevado del Ruiz volcano in Colombia on November 12.

All Australians have been shocked by news of the disaster and the harrowing media coverage.

We are all deeply concerned at the very heavy death toll, which recent reports place at more than 20,000. I extend the Government's sympathy to those who are bereaved and suffering and hope that early relief might be brought to those affected.

Messages of condolence have been sent to the Colombian President and Foreign Minister.

The Foreign Affairs Department has no information to suggest that there were any Australian travellers in the region at the time of the disaster.