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## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

November 21 1985

The following message was sent to the new Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, The Hon Paias Wingti:

"On behalf of the Government of Australia I congratulate you on becoming Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea.

I was glad to have had the opportunity of meeting you in Port Moresby in September and convey to you now my warmest regards and very best wishes in the testing times you will face ahead as you assume the burden of office. The good wishes of all Australians are with you.

You take over the reins of Government as Papua New Guinea enters its second decade of Independence and you face great tasks including the further development of your country. I need hardly say that the Australian Government stands ready to extend sympathetic support and I look forward to working with you to support the closest and most cooperative relationship between our two Governments and people.

This relationship has always been marked by very strong personal links between us at all levels. It is therefore my hope that we will be able to welcome you to Australia in the near future and I take this opportunity to extend an invitation to you to make an early visit to Australia."