



## PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF SPEECH AT WELCOME CEREMONY, JERUSALEM, 26 JANUARY 1987

E & O E - PROOF ONLY

Prime Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen. Thank you Mr Prime Minister for your welcome <sup>it is indeed an indescribable</sup> pleasure for me to <sup>be able to</sup> accept <sup>the</sup> renewed invitation extended to me by President Herzog and to come here as the first Australian Prime Minister to visit Israel. This is appropriate because Australia has had very close ties with the Nation of Israel since the very prime of its inception and I personally have had close ties since my first visit here in 1971, and it is my hope as <sup>the</sup> Prime Minister that this visit, myself, my wife and those accompanying me will play <sup>its</sup> part in further strengthening those ties which are <sup>of such</sup> long standing. Today, Mr Prime Minister, is Australia's National Day and it is appropriate for me to <sup>recall</sup> <sup>^</sup> in those circumstances that Australia and Israel have this very much in common. It has been the dream, the aspirations and the endeavours of immigrants who have made our Nations strong. Relations between us span so many fields of cultural, scientific and economic endeavour, but <sup>of course</sup> whatever the relations are in those fields, whatever the relations between Governments it is the relation, Mr Prime Minister, between people, between individuals which mean so much in the ultimate, to strengthen the relations between nations, and in that regard, of course, there is a special bridge between Australia and Israel. In the facts of the very large Jewish community that we have in our Nation, it is not possible, <sup>my</sup> Prime Minister, to describe in a short time on this occasion the magnitude

2.

of the contribution that has been made to Australia by the Jewish people throughout our history, but it is a contribution which marks and sustains every <sup>possible</sup> element of the Australian endeavour. Mr Prime Minister, I look forward, with those accompanying me, to details <sup>taking</sup> ~~of~~ constructive discussions with you and your Ministers about the issues of great importance in this region and of the matters of bilateral interest between us and overwhelmingly, Mr Prime Minister, I trust that in the discussions we have, we will be able to talk about that issue <sup>which is</sup> /of overwhelming importance and that is the question of securing in the future, peace for Israel and peace in this region, and I know Mr Prime Minister, that we will be able to have <sup>most</sup> /useful discussions on that matter. I thank you again for your welcome and I bring to you and the people of Israel the best wishes of the Government and the people of Australia.