



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

2 JUNE 1987

I have today sent the following message to His Excellency President Amin Gemayel of Lebanon:

"It was with deep shock and regret that I learned of the tragic death of Mr Rashid Karame, Lebanon's Prime Minister and distinguished elder statesman.

Rashid Karame was a central figure in Lebanese political life for more than three decades and devoted the last years of his life to the sensitive and difficult search for national reconciliation.

The manner of his death is a sharp reminder to us all of the tragic problems which continue to beset the Lebanese people. It is our fervent hope that Rashid Karame's death will encourage Lebanese communities to even greater efforts to achieve peace and progress through national unity.

On behalf of the Government and people of Australia I extend sincere condolences to the members of Mr Karame's family and to the people of Lebanon."