



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

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Christmas is traditionally a time of peace and a time of hope.

As Australians look back over 1987, I believe we have strong grounds for optimism for the future for both our country and, indeed, the world.

Earlier this month we applauded as the superpowers took an historic step towards disarmament. We all trust this is only a first step into a new era of peace and hope for every man, woman and child on the planet - a first step towards a saner, safer world.

For Australia 1987 was a year of consolidation and achievement.

For its part, my Government stuck steadfastly to its task and the Australian people responded. We made difficult decisions in difficult times - but they were all made in pursuit of the goal of building a fairer and more productive Australia.

And while we still live in times of uncertainty, I believe all Australians can nevertheless plan ahead with confidence in the future.

1988 will be a particularly significant year for Australia, not least because we will be celebrating our 200th birthday. Let us seek to ensure it will be rewarding and prosperous for all Australians.

Hazel and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and great happiness throughout 1988.

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