

23



**PRIME MINISTER**

FOR MEDIA

18 AUGUST 1988

I have today sent the following message to the Acting President of Pakistan, Ghulam Ishaq Khan:

"I was shocked to learn of President Zia Ul Haq's tragic death.

On behalf of the Government and people of Australia, may I extend to you, and to the Government and people of Pakistan, our deep condolences and sympathy. Please also convey my sympathy to the President's family and to your other countrymen who have suffered personal loss.

President Zia's strong stand in respect of Afghanistan has been very rightly recognised and acknowledged throughout the world.

We very much hope that the President's untimely death will not hamper the progress towards the consolidation of democracy in Pakistan.

Again, your Excellency, please accept my personal condolences at this tragic time for your country."