



- FAS International,
Mr Richardson.
- AS Primary Industry
+ energy, ITR,
Ms Fanning.

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PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

21 APRIL 1989

I have announced today that Australia will participate in the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction sponsored by the United Nations.

The Director General of the Department of Defence's Natural Disasters Organisation (NDO), Major General Brian Howard, will chair the Australian co-ordinating committee for the International Decade.

The United Nations General Assembly decided at its 42nd session to designate the 1990's as an International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR).

The aim of IDNDR is to reduce loss of life, property damage and economic disruption from natural disasters through concerted international actions, especially in developing countries.

The Australian Committee will include representatives from the Departments of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Primary Industries and Energy, Administrative Services, Arts, Sports and the Environment, Tourism and Territories, AIDAB, CSIRO and relevant scientific bodies.