



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

9 JUNE 1989

The Australian Government stands ready to provide an immediate grant of \$200,000 to help Chinese people who are in need of humanitarian assistance following recent events.

Discussions are taking place between officials and the Australian Red Cross Society on ways of providing assistance.

Governments and Red Cross have often worked together to ensure that humanitarian relief reaches people under difficult circumstances.

Right now Red Cross is exploring acceptable ways of reaching those people. It is vital that the humanitarian work of organisations like Red Cross continues without disruption.

Government officials will maintain close contact with Red Cross about needs in China as the situation evolves.

Should an Australian appeal be launched, I call on all Australians to give generously and in this context very much welcome the initiative taken by Wayne Goss on 7 June to focus attention on this humanitarian matter.