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## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

2 DECEMBER 1989

I welcome and endorse the positive and speedy response by President Bush to the request for assistance from President Aquino.

United States action to help counter the illegal attempt to overthrow the freely-elected Government of the Philippines is playing an important part in enabling it to reassert its authority.

At the end of a year in which democracy has triumphed through 'people power' in large parts of Eastern Europe, it would be a tragedy if Philippines democracy fell to force of rebel arms.

President Aquino has Australia's full support for her efforts to restore the authority of the duly elected and properly constituted Government of the Philippines.