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PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

2 MARCH 1990

I have sent the following message to Prime Minister Andreotti of Italy:

Mr Dear Prime Minister

On behalf of the Government and people of Australia may I say that the news of former President Pertini's death was received here with much sorrow.

Dr Alessandro Pertini was one of the great humanitarians of our time and brought to his Presidency and long career as a democrat, politician and statesman, qualities which earned him the respect and admiration of the international community.

He will be especially missed by his many fellow Italians who have settled in Australia. Sandro Pertini would have been proud of their outstanding contribution to the development of this country, because in so many ways they draw inspiration from the values for which he fought and stood so firmly.

BOB HAWKE