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## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

16 MARCH 1990

I deeply regret the execution in Iraq of the British-based journalist, Mr Farzad Bazoft.

Like other members of the world community, I sent a personal message to President Saddam Hussein, asking him to exercise clemency in this case. I am deeply disappointed that my appeal and those from so many other quarters were ignored by the Iraqi Government.

Australia has a consistent and universal policy of opposition to the death penalty, which we regard as a fundamental violation of human rights.