



PRIME MINISTER

28/92

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P.J. KEATING MP AID FOR TURKISH EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

All Australians were distressed to learn of the tragic loss of life and property which occurred as a result of the recent earthquakes in the eastern Turkish city of Erzincan.

On Monday I conveyed to Prime Minister Demirel of Turkey the deepest sympathy of the Australian Government and people.

As a contribution to the international relief effort, the Australian Government will contribute \$250,000 in financial assistance to help the victims of the earthquake.

This assistance will be provided through the Australian Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and will be used primarily for the purchase of emergency shelter and blankets.

In view of the urgency and the distance involved, the best way for Australia to help is through financial assistance. The funds will be provided by the Government's overseas aid agency, AIDAB, the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau.

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