

OPS. cc Martin
Dra News: Bush fires in
S. Australia 2/83
PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T17/83

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TC IMMEDIATE CANBERRA

TELEGRAM NUMBER 52 OF 17 FEBRUARY

MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER TO MR FRASER

1. GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD ARRANGE FOR FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO BE DELIVERED TO THE PRIME MINISTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

BEGINS: DEAR MALCOLM, I TRIED BUT WAS UNABLE TO SPEAK TO YOU ON THE TELEPHONE TO LET YOU KNOW THAT I AND ALL MY CABINET COLLEAGUES ARE APPALLED BY THE TERRIBLE LOSS, SUFFERING AND DEVASTATION INFLICTED BY THE BUSH FIRES.

IT IS A TIME OF GREAT WORRY AND CONCERN FOR YOU AND THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA. MAY I CONVEY THROUGH YOU TO THE BEREAVED MY DEEPEST SYMPATHY AND THAT OF THE CABINET IN THEIR GRIEF.

I WISH YOU ALL STRENGTH IN THE DAYS AHEAD. OUR THOUGHTS WILL BE WITH YOU AND THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA. IF THERE IS ANY WAY IN WHICH WE CAN HELP YOU HAVE ONLY TO LET US KNOW.

YOURS EVER, MARGARET. ENDS

PYM

COPIES TO:

MR COLES, NO 10 DOWNING STREET.

LIMITED

SPD

PCD

PS

PS/LORD BELSTEAD

MR GIFFARD

MR DONALD

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