

No. M136

Date

15 December 1981

THE HON. TONY STREET, M.P.

150.

GOLAN HEIGHTS

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Tony Street MP, said today that the Australian Government deplored the announcement that the Israeli Government intends to enforce Israeli law on the Golan Heights.

The Minister said that the Australian Government regarded the intention of the Israeli Government with respect to the Golan Heights as contrary to the principles of Security Council Resolution 242. The Australian Government considers the Golan Heights to be part of the occupied territories, the final status of which should be determined through negotiations between all parties in the context of a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East dispute.

The Minister recalled that last year the Australian Government had also expressed its opposition to the declaration by the Israeli Knesset that all Jerusalem including occupied East Jerusalem, is the united capital of Israel.

The Minister stated that the enactment of legislation enforcing Israeli law in the Golan Heights would exacerbate tension in the region and make it more difficult to achieve progress towards a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.