

HP



PRIME MINISTER

CANBERRA

UNDCP CENTRAL REGISTRY

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DRS

John Howard

Thank you for your letter of 26 June 1998 regarding the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Countering the World Drug Problem and the associated meetings of young people that produced the Vision from Banff and Youth Charter for a Twenty-First Century Free of Drugs.

Australia was pleased to have been part of the Special Session and will help build on the action plans adopted there. I was glad that we were able to support the attendance of two young Australians to the Banff Youth Event.

The Australian government is strongly committed to the fight against drugs. In 1997 we launched the Tough on Drugs Strategy, which is a balanced and integrated approach to reducing the supply and demand for illicit drugs. As part of the Strategy, the Australian government is providing \$215 million for measures which achieve a balance between law enforcement and education, treatment and research. There is to be a stronger emphasis on education, treatment and research on reduction in drug use, compared with previous policies which had the more passive objective of reducing the harm caused by use.

I can assure you that Australia will continue to support international efforts in this important area.

Yours sincerely

John Howard

(John Howard)

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