

**Transcript of selection from NAA: C3213, Reel 7 [860261]
Prime Minister Gough Whitlam: Message to the people of Darwin and
interview [Cyclone Tracy, Darwin] [sound recording]**

Start 00.12

Well, this is the cable I've sent to the Administrator of the Northern Territory and to the Mayor of Darwin. I'm horrified by the appalling loss of life and the destruction that have befallen Darwin on Christmas Day. The only city on Australian soil to suffer extensive damage from enemy action in war is now the scene of one of Australia's worst natural disasters. I am in touch with my ministers and officials concerning relief measures and have directed that nothing be spared to bring aid to the homeless and afflicted. The full resources of the new Disaster Relief Organisation which the government established this year will be at the disposal of the local authorities and people of Darwin. Don't hesitate to request whatever assistance may be needed. On behalf of the government I pledge a determined and unremitting effort to rebuild the city and relieve suffering. Please convey to the people of Darwin my own profound sense of shock at this grievous and unseasonal calamity and my heartfelt personal sympathy to all the victims.

Finish 01.20