



PRIME MINISTER

3/92

**STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON. P.J. KEATING, MP
MEETINGS WITH BUSINESS, UNION LEADERS**

Over the next two weeks I will be meeting chief executives of some of Australia's largest companies as well as representatives of small business and trade unions to listen to their ideas for bringing forward the economic recovery.

I will be joined in these meetings by the Treasurer, Mr Dawkins, the Minister for Finance, Mr Willis and the Minister for Industry, Technology and Commerce, Senator Button.

The national meetings are the first step in what will be a concerted effort by my Government to hear the ideas of those who will play a major role in getting Australia back to work.

The first meetings will take place in Melbourne next Wednesday (Jan. 15) and Thursday (Jan. 16).

Further talks will be held in Sydney the following Monday (Jan. 20) and Tuesday (Jan. 21).

As the Economic Statement is developed I and other Ministers will consult more widely with business, unions and other groups throughout Australia.

Those involved in the talks are people from some of our most dynamic enterprises, large and small, and many executives have made special efforts to be available to meet with Government at short notice.

There is a growing sense of purpose and enthusiasm being directed to our national economic problem and these meetings will do much to encourage that enthusiasm.

The speed of the recovery and our ability to create jobs quickly will be greatly influenced by these companies.

For that reason it is important the Government has a clear picture of what their plans are and what is happening across the economy as a whole.

The meetings will be with individual chief executives and in some cases with small groups.

All Melbourne meetings will be held in the Prime Minister's office in Treasury Place, starting about 9.30 a.m. on both Wednesday and Thursday and finishing about 3.30-4 p.m. each day.

Media will be notified of further details for the Melbourne meetings (picfacs, list of participants etc.) early this week.

Arrangements for the Sydney meetings will be finalised later in the week.

12 January 1992