



PRIME MINISTER

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING, MP

VISIT BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN

I am pleased to announce that the first foreign head of government to visit Australia since the March election will be the Prime Minister of Japan, Mr Kiichi Miyazawa.

Prime Minister Miyazawa will visit Canberra as guest of the Government from 29 April to 1 May. His visit to Australia will be the first by a Japanese Prime Minister since that of Mr Noboru Takeshita in 1988.

The visit will reaffirm the vitality and importance of the Australia-Japan partnership both bilaterally and in terms of our expanding consultation and cooperation in regional and international affairs. My discussions in Canberra with Prime Minister Miyazawa will build on the very productive dialogue we established during my visit to Japan last September.

Australia and Japan share a range of important interests and perspectives as we each address an increasingly fluid strategic and trading environment in the Asia-Pacific region. With continuing delay in the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, both countries have fundamental interests in maintaining an open and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system and in promoting open regionalism through the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) process.

Earlier this month, Prime Minister Miyazawa had important discussions with President Clinton in Washington. In July the Japanese Government will host in Tokyo the annual G7 summit.

My discussions with Prime Minister Miyazawa will provide a valuable opportunity to exchange views on these important developments and to identify areas where Australia and Japan should work towards shared objectives in the Asia-Pacific region.

CANBERRA
23 April 1993