



# PRIME MINISTER

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

**COMMONWEALTH DAY 1994**

The strength in diversity that is a unifying feature of the Commonwealth of Nations is reflected in the theme chosen for this year's Commonwealth Day - Sport.

The Commonwealth Games, to be held in Canada in August, encapsulate one of the most notable aspects of the Commonwealth - the coming together of people and countries from all continents in a spirit of participation and healthy competition.

Commonwealth Day 1994 also sees us only a few weeks away from historic elections in South Africa - elections which owe much to the efforts of Commonwealth countries in maintaining pressure for change.

The significant role of the Commonwealth in encouraging respect for democracy will be highlighted through a distinguished Commonwealth observer group, electoral officials, and other personnel assisting with the South African transition process, including representatives from Australia.

Although Australia's place in the world is changing, the Government continues to see value in our membership of the Commonwealth of Nations. We are encouraging the Commonwealth to respond similarly to global developments to ensure its continuing relevance to member states.

I am looking forward to discussing this and other related issues when I meet with the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, during his official visit to Australia at the end of this month.

**CANBERRA**

**March 14, 1994**