



14

PRIME MINISTER

23/95

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

VISIT TO AUSTRALIA BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC, H.E. MR VACLAV HAVEL

I am very pleased to announce that His Excellency Mr Vaclav Havel, President of the Czech Republic, accompanied by Mrs Olga Havlova, will visit Australia from 26 to 30 March as a guest of the Australian Government. President Havel will visit the Northern Territory as well as Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne.

President Havel has been a central figure in the political and cultural life of his country. His courageous political activism was instrumental in the revolution which restored democracy to Czechoslovakia. He has since played a vital role in guiding the Czech Republic. He is also, of course, a distinguished playwright.

I am looking forward to discussing with the President on 28 March ways in which Australia and the Czech Republic can enhance our economic, political and cultural ties. Our links are underpinned significantly by the thousands of Czechs who have migrated to Australia since 1945 and who have made such an important contribution to the life of this country.

The Presidential party will include Mr Ivan Kocarnik, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Mr Vladimir Dlouhy, Minister of Industry and Trade, Mr Josef Tosovsky, Governor of the Czech National Bank and Mr Alexandr Vondra, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

CANBERRA
23 MARCH 1995