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PRIME MINISTER

133/95

**STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING, MP
TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION ARRANGEMENT**

I am pleased to announce that Australia and Canada have today signed a Trade and Economic Cooperation Arrangement.

The Canadian Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Jean Chretien, and I witnessed the signature of the Arrangement, which marks the centenary of trade relations between Australia and Canada.

Under the Arrangement a Ministerial-level consultative group will be established to expand trade and investment and encourage business cooperation between Australia and Canada, and jointly in our respective regions. The group will meet annually.

The Trade and Economic Cooperation Arrangement demonstrates our joint commitment to reducing trade restrictions between our two countries.

Importantly, it seeks to advance our shared APEC goals in a manner we hope will be emulated by our APEC colleagues.

**CANBERRA
15 November 1995**



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