



## PRIME MINISTER

6/92

### STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, PAUL KEATING

Australia has decided to recognise as independent states the former Yugoslav republics of Slovenia and Croatia.

Slovenia and Croatia have met the conditions set out by the EC on 16 December 1991. These include respect for United Nations and Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) principles, including regard for the rule of law, democracy and human rights, guarantees on minority rights, observance of international obligations on security and non-proliferation, respect for the inviolability of all frontiers, and recourse to peaceful means for the settlement of disputes.

But much remains to be done before the people of the former republics of Yugoslavia are able to enjoy the peace and prosperity that is their right. I strongly urge the leaders of all the parties to the conflict to demonstrate the strength of will and political determination to resolve their differences peacefully. Nor does the act of recognition bring to an end the responsibility of the international community to help resolve the conflict. The international community must continue to promote and support efforts to ensure that minority rights, territorial disputes and succession questions are settled peacefully and justly.

I warmly welcome the establishment of these new states, and wish the leaders and people of the nations of Slovenia and Croatia well in the tasks ahead. My Government will seek discussions with the new states on establishing diplomatic relations.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Senator Evans, will issue a statement on the arrangements for Australian recognition.

CANBERRA  
16 January 1992