



## PRIME MINISTER

**TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING, MP  
PARLIAMENTARY RECEPTION FOR HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN AND HIS  
ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH  
24 FEBRUARY 1992**

Your Majesty, your Royal Highness, Your Excellencies,  
Parliamentary Colleagues, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and  
Gentlemen.

Your Majesty, on behalf of the government and people of  
Australia it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to  
Canberra.

I know that on this visit it is your primary purpose to  
participate in Sydney's sesquicentennial; but today it is my  
primary purpose to congratulate you on the 40th anniversary  
of your accession to the throne.

Your Majesty, we have all changed in that time. The men who  
sat in the Australian parliament on your first visit - they  
were all practically men in those days - had memories of  
Empire. Not a few of them saw the world through imperial  
eyes. Many of them had been born in Queen Victoria's day  
and remembered the several monarchs in between.

But I daresay a good many members of this parliament are  
like the majority of Australians and have known only one  
monarch, Queen Elizabeth II.

This is an altogether different generation, reflecting the  
profound change in our two countries and the relationship  
between them.

As our constitutional relationship has evolved so have the  
circumstances of our economic and political lives.

These days we must both face the necessities of a global  
economy and global change of often staggering speed and  
magnitude.

We must also face regional realities.

Just as Great Britain some time ago sought to make her future secure in the European Community, so Australia now vigorously seeks partnerships with countries in our own region.

Our outlook is necessarily independent.

That independence in part was reflected in your becoming, in 1973, Queen of Australia.

In 1992 it is reflected in our growing sense of national purpose: in our conviction that we must move quickly and vigorously to make the most of our human and material resources and seize our opportunities in the world.

We must do this so that Australians will be assured of the same freedom and security in the next century as they have enjoyed in this.

I thank you for your visit, and ask you to accept a gift from the people of Australia as a token of our affection and esteem.

CANBERRA