



## PRIME MINISTER

30/92

### STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P.J. KEATING MP SOUTH AFRICAN REFERENDUM

I welcome the positive outcome of the South African referendum and hope the result will add fresh momentum to the process of political reform in that country.

I congratulate President de Klerk on receiving a clear mandate from the white community for his reform program. The referendum result is a boost for the forces of democracy and Australia hopes that this will be the last racially based poll in South Africa. It is important that the victory won by whites in favour of genuine reform serves as a catalyst to accelerate the development of a non-racial democratic constitution.

I look forward to further positive developments in negotiations. Further progress in the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA), the forum created for all-party negotiations, will enable countries such as Australia to review remaining sanctions against South Africa.

The level of violence in South Africa during the referendum campaign is a cause for serious concern and I urge all parties to redouble their efforts to bring a stop to the senseless bloodshed.

The referendum result should speed the process of democratisation, and I call on all parties to accept the will of the people and move without delay towards the establishment of a truly non-racial constitution in South Africa.

CANBERRA  
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