



## PRIME MINISTER

29/92

**STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P.J. KEATING MP  
VISIT TO INDONESIA AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

At the invitation of the Governments of Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, I shall be visiting Indonesia from 21 to 24 April, and Papua New Guinea from 24 to 26 April.

My visit to Indonesia, the first by an Australian Prime Minister since 1983, will provide an opportunity to discuss with President Soeharto and his senior Ministers the scope for establishing a firm basis for the long-term development of Australia-Indonesia relations both in the bilateral domain and as partners in the Asia-Pacific region.

Australia and Indonesia have in common major political, economic and strategic interests. In 1990-91 Australian exports to Indonesia were worth \$1.4 billion, making Indonesia our ninth largest export market and the second largest in ASEAN. Indonesia is a key member of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) process, which Australia helped establish.

I am also pleased to have an early opportunity to visit Papua New Guinea, a country with which Australia has a long-standing and close relationship, and to meet Prime Minister Namaliu and members of his cabinet.

In Port Moresby, I shall take part in a special program on Anzac Day to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Papua New Guinea campaign of World War II. That campaign, an important part of the Pacific War, holds great significance for all Australians.

Media arrangements will be advised separately in the near future.

CANBERRA  
18 March 1992

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