



PRIME MINISTER

65/92

**STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING, MP
SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM**

I shall attend the 23rd South Pacific Forum in Honiara from 8 to 9 July, leaving Australia on 7 July and returning on 10 July. The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Senator Gareth Evans, will represent me at the South Pacific Forum Leaders' Retreat on 6 July and at Solomon Islands Independence Day celebrations on 7 July.

The Forum provides an opportunity for the countries of the South Pacific to discuss regional cooperation on a wide range of important issues, including economic development, the environment and regional security. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss these matters with my regional colleagues.

In addition to the formal proceedings of the Forum, I expect to have bilateral meetings with the Prime Ministers of Solomon Islands, New Zealand and Fiji.

CANBERRA

3 July 1992