



PRIME MINISTER

**STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P. J. KEATING MP
VISIT BY PRIME MINISTER OF FIJI**

The Prime Minister of Fiji, the Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka, will visit Australia on 29 August – 4 September as a guest of the Government. Prime Minister Rabuka will be accompanied by Mrs Rabuka, Foreign Minister Bole and officials.

Fiji and Australia have longstanding ties. Fiji is one of our important partners in the South Pacific and serves as an economic and transportation centre for the region.

I met and held discussions with Prime Minister Rabuka at the recent South Pacific Forum in Honiara. During the meeting we agreed to resume defence relations between Australia and Fiji. That move completes normalisation of bilateral relations following Fiji's return to representative government after elections in May this year.

Prime Minister Rabuka will visit Brisbane, Toowoomba, Sydney and Canberra. He will have discussions with me and other ministers on bilateral, regional and international issues of shared concern.

**CANBERRA
20 August 1992**