



**PRIME MINISTER**

**STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING, MP  
AUSTRALIAN NOMINATION FOR DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE UNITED  
NATIONS FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION**

I am pleased to announce that the Government endorses Dr Geoff Miller as Australia's official candidate for the position of Director-General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

Australia was instrumental in the establishment of FAO in 1945, and has been active in its work ever since. The world faces daunting food and agricultural problems including escalating hunger and malnutrition, serious depletion of natural resources and disrupted world markets. Given Australia's role as a major exporter of farm products, we are very conscious of these issues.

Geoff Miller has had a distinguished career in agricultural economics, spending 14 years as head or associate head of leading Australian Government agencies, including the (then) Bureau of Agricultural Economics; the national Economic Planning Advisory Council; the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; and the Department of Primary Industries and Energy. In each of his assignments he has demonstrated his impressive analytical skills and administrative ability.

Geoff Miller has played a leading role in rural and economic policy for almost two decades. He has a very strong global orientation, having led numerous Australian delegations to world food, agricultural and trade meetings and negotiations. These included the FAO, the OECD and the GATT.

Geoff Miller is a product of rural Australia with a sound practical background in agriculture. He also has strong academic credentials.

Australia attaches great importance to the work of the FAO, and to the advancement of international co-operation through the UN system. I believe Geoff Miller would make an excellent Director-General.

Since the election will not be held until November 1993, Dr Miller will retain his present position in Canberra as Secretary of the Department of Primary Industries and Energy.

CANBERRA

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