

**PRIME MINISTER**

1/93

**EMBARGO: 23.59 31.12.92****STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING, MP****RECOGNITION OF FORMER CZECHOSLOVAKIAN REPUBLICS**

Australia has decided to recognise as independent states the two former Czechoslovakian republics, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic.

This follows today's dissolution of the Czechoslovakian federation, which was authorised by a vote of Czechoslovakia's federal parliament on 25 November last year.

I commend the leaders and people of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic for the amicable way in which they have resolved their differences and congratulate them on the peaceful transition from federation to independent republics. They have shown what can be achieved by parties tackling change in a spirit of civilised discourse.

I wish the leaders and people of both nations well.

The Australian Government is pleased to enter into diplomatic relations and welcomes the advice that both republics will be represented at embassy level in Canberra.

The Australian ambassador in Warsaw will be accredited to both republics.

**CANBERRA**  
**1 January 1993**