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**PRIME MINISTER**

58/93

**STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING, MP
FORMER FRENCH PRIME MINISTER PIERRE BEREGOVY**

I have today sent the following message to Mr Francois Mitterrand, President of France:

On behalf of the Australian Government and people, I should like to convey our sincere condolences on the death, in such tragic circumstances, of the former Prime Minister, Mr Pierre Berégovoy. Please also pass on our condolences to Mr Berégovoy's family.

Mr Berégovoy's contribution to French Governments over a number of years and in a variety of roles has been widely recognised. I recall with pleasure my own meetings with him in our former capacities as Treasurer and Finance Minister. I was impressed by his open and unpretentious manner, and his profound concern for the interests of the French people at large. His death is a great loss to France and to his friends and fraternal colleagues around the world.

CANBERRA
4 May 1993