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PRIME MINISTER

95/93

STATEMENT BY THE HON P J KEATING, MP

VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT OF GERMANY

I am pleased to announce that the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, His Excellency Mr Richard von Weizsäcker, will make a State visit to Australia from 3 to 9 September 1993 at the invitation of the Governor-General.

While in Australia President von Weizsäcker will be visiting Melbourne, Adelaide, Canberra, Sydney and Cairns. I will meet President von Weizsäcker in Canberra on Monday 6 September.

President von Weizsäcker's visit to Australia will be the first by the President of a reunified Germany. His visit underlines the dramatic changes in international affairs in recent times, including the ongoing process of European union.

Australia's relationship with Germany is substantial. In 1992, Germany was Australia's eighth largest trading partner. Australian exports to Germany were worth \$1.1 billion and imports from Germany \$3.2 billion. Germany is also a significant source of investment for Australia, with capital stock of \$6.4 billion invested here. Around 115,000 Australians were born in Germany and, at the 1986 census, over 230,000 claimed German ancestry.

I warmly welcome President von Weizsäcker to Australia, and look forward to discussing with him a range of issues including Australian-German relations and the outlook for European economic integration.

CANBERRA
24 August 1993