



PRIME MINISTER

40/94

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING MP

VISIT TO AUSTRALIA BY US PRESIDENTIAL REPRESENTATIVE

I am pleased to announce that Mr Jack H Watson Jr will visit Australia from 4-9 May as the personal representative of President Clinton during Australia-America Friendship Week. Mr Watson is a lawyer. He was Cabinet Secretary in the Carter Administration and is an adviser to President Clinton.

Mr Watson will participate in various activities in Canberra and Hobart to commemorate the 52nd anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea as a guest of the Australian Government. He will also hold discussions on Australia-United States relations with senior members of the Government.

The Battle of the Coral Sea, fought in May 1942, was a turning point of the war in the South Pacific and laid the foundations for the Australian-American alliance. The close cooperation between Australia and the United States, based on the strong bonds forged during that conflict, continues over fifty years later. The alliance between our two countries retains its relevance and strength in these very different times.

CANBERRA

May 3, 1994