



PRIME MINISTER

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

SOUTH AFRICA REJOINS THE COMMONWEALTH

I warmly welcome the announcement that South Africa has been re-admitted into the Commonwealth of Nations from which the former regime withdrew in 1961.

In rejoining the Commonwealth, President Mandela's Government of National Unity has acknowledged the substantial contribution the organisation has made over the years to the successful transition to democracy. Australia has been proud to be part of this process.

We believe the Commonwealth can continue to play a useful role in helping South Africa in the post-apartheid period.

I look forward with pleasure to South Africa's participation in the Commonwealth Games in Canada and to President Mandela's attendance at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Auckland next year.

CANBERRA
May 31, 1994