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PRIME MINISTER

42/95

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON PJ KEATING MP

ROBERT HENRY JOHNSTON AO, CHAIRMAN OF AUSTRADE

I was deeply saddened to learn of the death of the Chairman of Austrade, Mr Robert Johnston - a true captain of Australian industry.

It was typical of Bob Johnston's commitment to Australia and to excellence that after a lifetime building our motor industry he devoted his retirement to strengthening Australia's export push as Chairman of Austrade.

His dedication to guiding Australian industry and promoting exports was unparalleled.

I last saw Bob Johnston at the CeBIT technology fair in Hanover. It was a measure of his dedication that despite illness he worked tirelessly to ensure the exhibition was a success.

The opening of the new Toyota production plant in Melbourne last month was a testimony to his faith in Australia - a legacy of his period as Chief Executive Officer of Toyota Australia. The plant sets a new benchmark for the Australian motor vehicle industry.

I wish to extend my personal and the Government's condolences to his family.

I also wish to offer the thanks of the Australian people for a life which helped make Australia a more modern and productive place.

CANBERRA
8 May 1995