



PRIME MINISTER

58/95



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

DESTRUCTION OF HONORARY FRENCH CONSULATE, PERTH

I am disturbed and disappointed by the destruction of the premises of the Honorary French Consulate in Perth in the early hours of this morning.

I understand that police must ascertain the cause of the fire before it can be proved to have been a wilful act of destruction. However, if it is proved that this action is a violent protest against the resumption of French nuclear testing in the South Pacific, it must be condemned for the extreme form it has taken.

All Australians have been angered by the French decision. It is the right of every citizen to voice their disapproval of the French Government's decision, including by peaceful protest. However, the deliberate destruction of property is not part of the Australian way of life and must be rejected on every occasion.

As a nation, Australia has made its strong protest to the French Government through Senator McMullan, as acting Foreign Minister, calling in the French Ambassador on Wednesday. Further, as the leader of the South Pacific delegation, Senator Evans will meet the French Foreign Minister in Paris on Monday to convey our condemnation of their decision to resume nuclear tests.

**CANBERRA
17 JUNE 1995**

COM

Com
train

The
alloc

The
Natic
acros

The
indus

The
speci

"This
alloc
Insti

Mr S
mont
proce

"This
"It w

Mr F:
excel
educ:

"It al:
indus

Conto