



PRIME MINISTER

71/95

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

VISIT TO AUSTRALIA BY THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF VIETNAM, MR DO MUOI, 29 JULY-4 AUGUST 1995

I am pleased to announce that the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, Mr Do Muoi, will visit Australia as a guest of the Government from 29 July to 4 August. The General Secretary is the highest ranking Vietnamese figure to visit Australia. He will be accompanied by high level members of the Vietnamese government and by a business delegation. He will visit New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Canberra.

The General Secretary's visit is a significant milestone in the development of Australia's relationship with Vietnam - one that is growing in importance. Two-way trade grew by 10 per cent from 1993 to 1994, and is valued at \$402 million. Australia is now the sixth largest foreign investor in Vietnam.

The General Secretary's visit coincides with the accession of Vietnam as the seventh member of ASEAN and the normalisation of its relations with the United States. These developments underline the growing importance of Vietnam in the Asia-Pacific region. I look forward to discussing these issues with the General Secretary, as well as the bilateral relationship between Australian and Vietnam and ways in which Australia and Vietnam can work to strengthen it.

CANBERRA
25 July 1995