

**PRIME MINISTER**

154/95

**STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING, MP  
CANBERRA COMMISSION ON THE ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

It is my pleasure today to announce that two additional outstanding individuals have agreed to participate in the Canberra Commission on the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. They will join the fifteen eminent statesmen, scientists, disarmament experts and military strategists who, as noted in my statement on 26 November, will bring experience and imaginative thinking to the task of proposing how to achieve a world totally free of nuclear weapons.

The new members of the Canberra Commission are Commander Jacques-Yves Cousteau and Ambassador Qian Jiadong. Both have exceptional qualifications and will strengthen the Commission in key areas. Commander Cousteau has a unique international reputation deriving from his work on environmental issues, notably in the field of marine conservation, and has moreover a strong personal commitment to the cause of nuclear disarmament. Ambassador Qian's distinguished diplomatic career includes serving as China's Ambassador for Disarmament.

The Commission will meet for the first time in Canberra from 23-25 January and is to conclude its report by 31 August 1996. It should be large enough to encompass the range of specialisations needed for its task but not so large as to be unwieldy. With these two most welcome additions I am confident that the Commission is appropriately structured to carry out its mandate.

**CANBERRA  
22 December 1995**