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TRANSCRIPT: JOHN TINGLE SHOW (FROM BERLIN), RADIO 2GB, SYDNEY.
INTERVIEW WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON.
THE HON. R.J. HAWKE, AC, MP.

DATE: THURSDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 1984

(PROOF ONLY)

TINGLE: My guest in the studio with me at the present time is the Mayor of Berlin, Mr. Heinrik Lummer, and on the phone from Australia we have the Prime Minister of Australia, Mr. Bob Hawke. Good Morning Mr. Hawke.

PRIME MINISTER: Good Morning John.

TINGLE: Let me say to you that from beautiful Berlin where everything is peaceful we would like to say Good Morning to you in Australia where you're having a pretty interesting time at the moment, I believe.

PRIME MINISTER: Yes, a very interesting time.

TINGLE: Indeed. Mr. Hawke, may I introduce you to the Mayor of Berlin, Mr. Heinrik Lummer, who is anxious to talk to you and exchange greetings between the two countries. Mr. Hawke - Mr. Lummer.

MAYOR OF BERLIN: Good Morning Mr. Prime Minister. I am very glad to have this opportunity to talk with you and I think it's a wonderful way to talk with each other and to say, first of all, Berlin greets Australia.

PRIME MINISTER: Thank you very much.

MAYOR OF BERLIN: I want to say that of course many people think we have no certain relations and connections, and of course that must become better I hope, but we in Berlin still remember that in a very dangerous situation - when we had the blockade - that your Australian Air Force helped us to manage the situation - and we also know that I think in Australia live 100,000 people coming from Germany and a lot of them come from Berlin and I want to say good wishes and of greetings to them.

PRIME MINISTER: Thank you very much Mr. Mayor. Let me, on behalf of the people of Australia, convey our greetings and best wishes and to say to you that we do indeed well remember the period of the blockade to which you refer and we were pleased to be able to play some part in supporting the people of West Berlin. We regarded your city as a symbol of freedom, not only for the people of Germany, but indeed for people throughout the world. And you are right in saying that we have excellent relations with West Berlin, with Berlin and the Federal Republic of Germany. That depends not merely on the facts that I have referred to of your city being a symbol of freedom, but it also reflects the fact that going back

over many years Australia has been enriched by the coming to Australia of very large numbers of citizens of German origins. Indeed, in one of our great industries - the wine industry in South Australia - it was founded by settlers from northern Germany at the end of the last century and some of those - many of those - from Berlin itself. We have many Australians going to the great cultural centres of Europe, and particularly going to Berlin. Those of our citizens who are interested in music and the theatre and the arts make Berlin one of their centres of destination. And so we have all those reasons for closeness with you - your magnificent stand of courage in the post War period; the fact that you remain, as we say, a symbol of freedom in this uncertain world, and the historical connection we have through the large numbers of people who come from that city to settle in Australia. So for all these reasons we have great feelings of identity with you.

MAYOR OF BERLIN: Mr. Prime Minister I don't know whether you know it but I want to tell you we have in our city well only 500 people coming from Australia and we have 2 million Berliners in our city, and on behalf of the Senate of Berlin I would take this opportunity to invite you to come to Berlin and all these people - the Australians and the Berliners - would be very happy if you'd come to Berlin, and I think Berlin is a very, very strange city sometimes, of course wonderful on the other hand, and some things in life and in the world you only can understand if you see it. You can read and write and talk with each other - you can't understand - but if you come you will, and that means we would be very glad if you come to Berlin and again I want to invite you to come.

PRIME MINISTER: Well thank you very much Mr. Lummer, and let me say this, that I would be expecting to travel overseas next year and I would say to you now that I have much pleasure in accepting the invitation that you put to me on behalf of the people of Berlin and I would hope to be able to take that up next year, and I do regard it as a great honour that you've extended that invitation to me.

MAYOR OF BERLIN: I will tell it to all the Berliners and I am quite sure they will be happy. Thank you so much.

PRIME MINISTER: Thank you Mr. Lummer, my best wishes.

TINGLE: Mr. Hawke thank you very much indeed for that. I think you'll find it's a beautiful city and it is, as you said, a symbol of freedom. It's an exciting place to be in and I know, I hope that I don't presume when I say that I think you and I know each other well enough for me to say that you'll enjoy it as I did and I look forward to your visit.

PRIME MINISTER: Thank you very much indeed John. Thank you.

TINGLE: Okay Mr. Hawke, thanks for talking to me. 'Bye.

ENDS.