



PRIME MINISTER

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JOURNALIST: Prime Minister Mr Cousteau indicated this morning that the French Government are now on board on this idea of a Wilderness Park for Antarctica. Are you pleased with that?

PM: Well that's the indication he gave to me. I'm certainly pleased if that's the case. I'll need to obviously have that confirmed when I see the Prime Minister and the President tomorrow but the indications are good.

JOURNALIST: Are you confident you can win other support around Europe and in America?

PM: The fact that we've moved from being one out to now having France and India is a very significant improvement and of course the merit of the case is overwhelming. So I hope that we will get further support. It may not be immediately forthcoming but I think as time goes on people will come to realise the responsibility that we've all got for saving the Antarctic and the Australian proposal is really the only way of getting there.

JOURNALIST: Jacques Cousteau indicated today that even the New Zealanders may not sign the Treaty.

PM: Well I think that's possible but we'll wait and see about that.

JOURNALIST: Can you get Jacques Cousteau to help you in your campaign against nuclear testing in the Pacific?

PM: He shares our view on that and he's made his position known as have we. But I don't think there's any immediate prospects of change there but we live in a rapidly changing world, you never know.

JOURNALIST: Are you expecting any further ... in talks tomorrow with the French on the question of nuclear testing or do you think that it will just be a restatement of views on both sides?

PM: Obviously we will state the position clearly and they will state theirs and we're not going to change one another's position I wouldn't think tomorrow.

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