



PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW WITH BARRY BISSELL, FOX-FM, MELBOURNE
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BISSELL: It's amazing the people you get on the phone here on a Monday afternoon, I tell you. The Prime Minister of Australia, Mr Hawke, good afternoon and welcome.

PM: Good afternoon Barry, thank you very much.

BISSELL: You've got some good news for us about an environmental issue which FOX-FM in Melbourne has been very concerned about for some time. We've been very conscious of the environment and working hard to make people aware of it, but you've come up with some very good news this afternoon.

PM: I have indeed Barry. Your listeners will know that I've been taking the lead in trying to save the Antarctic from mining and to create a wilderness reserve, a land of science and we've been working very closely with the French in that. The big news is that today, the Government of New Zealand has decided that it is going to set aside ratifications of that convention and work with us here in Australia to achieve our objectives, so that is an enormous result. It's not only another nation has joined with us in our objective but the fact that it is New Zealand has a particular significance because it was there, as I say, the convention was finally drawn up. We know this for instance, it's not just a question of the beauty and the pristine nature of the area down there but increasingly one of the environmental issues of concern around the world is the depletion of the ozone layer, the emission of greenhouse gases and the effect that has on our ocean levels and so on, and the significance of the Antarctic is that it is the one remaining area of the world untouched by human activity and industrial activity where you are able to take tests, make tests of what's happening in a way which is absolutely untainted by human and industrial activity.

BISSELL: Mr Hawke, thanks for the good news. It's good to hear from you, I know you're a very busy man at the moment. It must be a fairly torturous period for you, anybody, doing campaigning, but you especially, I mean it's there all the time, isn't it. You can't get away for the next few weeks.

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PM:but when you get news like this it's the sort of thing that gives you a lift Barry.

BISSELL: Makes it all worthwhile.

PM: Yes.

BISSELL: Mr Hawke, thank you very much for your time. It's been great talking to you.

PM: Thank you very much indeed.

ENDS.