



PRIME MINISTER

**TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING MP
DOORSTOP, AUSY345 SOUTH CHINA SEA, 24 SEPTEMBER 1992**

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- J:** Prime Minister, are you hoping to get an endorsement from Singapore for a Heads of Government Summit meeting in Jakarta?
- PM:** I've had a very encouraging reply, and as you know Singapore has now been nominated as the headquarters for the institution of APEC. So I will be telling Prime Minister Goh of my discussions with Prime Minister Miyazawa of Japan, and the fact that I think that the whole initiative is gaining some momentum and that they may discuss the issue further with their ASEAN partners.
- J:** I guess it would be important to have a member of ASEAN come out with a more firm commitment towards a Heads of Government aspect of APEC?
- PM:** There'll be further discussions with ASEAN and of course President Soeharto will be seeing Prime Minister Miyazawa this very week. So it will be reasonably well discussed.
- J:** Is it moving along faster than you expected?
- PM:** Again, we haven't set a deadline on it but it will be a better institution and better for Australia to be in an organisation that's got real political power.
- J:** You must be happy with the sort of momentum of things being developing of its own accord?
- PM:** That's one issue, but I'm very happy with the Japan leg of the trip in particular. I think that I've established an even closer working relationship with Prime Minister Miyazawa and other leaders in Japan. And we've consolidated many of the issues between us, trade issues and regional issues, and I look forward to be able to do the same thing in Singapore with Prime Minister Goh and other Singaporean leaders, and to advance some of the issues between us here as well.

- J Do you think it's entirely proper for the heads of foreign corporations to become directly involved in Australian political issues?
- PM: I've been in politics for a quarter of a century nearly, and it's never restrained any of them.
- J You'd have to discount some of their comments, though, as commercially motivated?
- PM: That's for companies to make their decisions about. It's not for me to particularly be vetting or commenting on their remarks.
- J: There's one extremely important comment that we need to get from you of course, and that is your prediction for the Grand Finals this weekend. Let's start with the most important one, West Coast versus Geelong
- PM: That's an easy contest for me, I'm on Geelong, I think Geelong will take that out. It's a good side Geelong, it's done well right through the competition and I'd like to see it do well and win the flag.
- J: In Sydney?
- PM: In Sydney, much as my Canterbury-Bankstown background will permit me I think I'd have to be barracking for St George against Brisbane. So we'll see what happens, but of course we'll be back probably just too late for all that.
- J: Is that a political or a league judgement?
- PM: It's a tribal judgement, tribal.
- J: Thank you Keating-san.

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