



PRIME MINISTER

**TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P.J KEATING, MP
EXTRACTS FROM JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE, MEDIA CENTRE,
HAWAII BEACH HOTEL, LIMASSOL, FRIDAY, 22 OCTOBER 1993**

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His Excellency Mr Glafcos Clerides:

We have had our afternoon break and because we have concluded the discussion of a very important subject and because we have reached a decision we thought that during the break, we would come and inform you about the decision taken. With regard to the importance of the decision I have four Prime Ministers with me who will explain the importance of the decision ...

PJK: Mr President, I don't think I have much more to add to that, but to say that the importance of the statement is that it exists, that it has come from a diverse group, most from the developing countries including the least developed countries, two G7 countries, four members of the Cairns Group represented at CHOGM. It is a substantial statement at a critical time. There are 55 days left only to the December 15 deadline and we are calling on the relevant countries to endorse the Draft Final Act including the Blair House Accord which was a substantial part of it. The key point is that the interests of all participants are factored into the GATT Round as it now stands. The Round began with an ambitious proposal to look after the traditional areas of goods and then moving it to services, intellectual property rights and agriculture and including, of course, much of the agriculture of the developing world. I think what has been agreed in the Draft Final Act and the Blair House Accord are key minimums for a successful conclusion of the Round. So, the minimums are in place, the Round can be successfully concluded, there has to be some give on the part of a number of countries and the Round could be successfully concluded and I think the point of the delegation is to impress upon selected countries the importance which a representative group like CHOGM believes is important for the things which Prime Minister Major said - free trade, growth and jobs.

J: Can I ask Prime Minister Keating, how he would describe any Heads of Government in key capitals visited who prove impervious to the arguments of this delegation?

PJK: I didn't quite get the sense of the question. The fact that this is such a representative group, say covering four Cairns Group countries, two G7

countries and a lot of developing countries, it has status by virtue of the fact that this statement exists and that there is a willingness and a wish to see the Round concluded. Now, as people know, much has been done to get to a point of conclusion as Prime Minister Major has said. There are a few areas outstanding and they are the matters which I think we should wish to focus upon and that is why as the Secretary General said, a decision about which places, that is which Governments will be visited and by whom will be the key points.

ends

Left to right along table (Press Conference, Hawaii Beach)

- 1 The Rt Hon P J Patterson
Prime Minister, Jamaica
- 2 The Hon P.J Keating MP
Prime Minister, Australia
- 3 Mr Glafkos Clerides
President, Cyprus
- 4 The Rt Hon John Major
Prime Minister, Britain
- 5 Chief Eleazar Chukwuemeka (Emeka) Anyaoku
(simply as Chief Anyaoku)
Commonwealth Secretary-General
- 6 The Hon Goh Chok Tong
Prime Minister, Singapore