



PRIME MINISTER

**TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING MP
DOORSTOP ON ARRIVAL AT RAAF FAIRBAIRN, CANBERRA
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PM: I might just say a couple of things about the trip - it was, for me, as successful as I could have had, this visit to Germany - the third largest economy in the world - and then to Holland where we have a good bi-lateral trade and investment relationship, but where the relationship needed to be warmed up, and I think that has happened too. The visit I had with Chancellor Kohl couldn't have been better - the policy discussions couldn't have been better - I think there is a wider appreciation now of the policy innovations in Australia, the growth we are having with low inflation - which most Europeans could only dream about - the high employment in Australia, how we have done it, and what we might do with Germany and with Europe. At the same time, of course, I went to the CeBIT Fair, which is the largest information, technology and telecommunications fair in the world, and we - Australian companies - are already writing tens of millions of dollars of business. We had 170 companies there - ten years ago in this country, before this Government came to office, we would have been lucky to have had ten companies there. So it's an indication of the huge technological change and product innovation which Australians have been able - have been capable of - and we had very warm praise for the quality of the exhibits we had there.

J: Should you have raised domestic issues while you were over there?

PM: There are always domestic issues being raised there, on overseas visits, and so we will be dealing with those as we come home. But as far as Mr Howard is concerned, I will be just leaving him to his conscience.

ends.