



PRIME MINISTER

**TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P.J. KEATING MP
DOORSTOP ON DEPARTURE TO LEADERS RETREAT, MADANG RESORT,
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J: Nauru's Leader says that the French should be excluded from the post-Forum dialogue, would Australia support that position?

PM: I think for some countries here, it is only the post-Forum dialogue where there is any contact with the French. So, I think, some countries will want to keep that dialogue going.

J: Is Australia one of those countries?

PM: Well we don't ... we have ambassadorial sources and we have direct ones as you know, but other countries don't so we respect their view.

J: How strong will the condemnation of France be?

PM: I think fairly strong. But again, here, questions about the French in the Pacific and the French territories are for the French and the people who live there. What we are objecting to is a single decision to detonate these nuclear blasts and if that were over then, if you like, our point of objection with France would cease.

J: After talking with other leaders overnight, how hopeful are you now of getting agreement on a code of conduct to restrict logging?

PM: I am reasonably hopeful. At the last meeting in Brisbane we tried to reconstruct the airline deficits which is a big thing to try to do. To try and get the fisheries, to get a better deal on fisheries and more cohesion in managing fishery clients and getting better prices and the other thing was to do something about forestry, about unsustainable logging. Now, they are three very big chunks to bite off - we are going pretty well on two and I hope we do well on the third.

J: Do you think using aid as a lever is an appropriate way to get people to fall in line?

PM: I don't think so because we can all seek to pressure governments but aid is about helping people and when aid is diminished it starts to diminish some of the programs that ordinary people get benefit from.

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