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# PRIME MINISTER

**TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING MP  
DOORSTOP, RAAF FAIRBAIRN, MONDAY, 15 JANUARY 1996**

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**PM:** I will just give you a brief comment. On this, as all of my overseas trips, I will be going to look after Australia's economic and security interests. Of course, I have been to Singapore three times. This is my first visit to Malaysia, but I have met the Prime Ministers of both countries on many occasions. These are old relationships for Australia, but we need to keep them in a contemporary setting and hence the value of the visit and talking to them and doing things with them. I think it is worth reminding people that our two way trade with both these countries is about \$10 billion and it is growing at 20 per cent a year. So, these are two very important countries to Australia and I am looking forward to going.

**J:** How important is it that Australia consolidates its relationship with Malaysia?

**PM:** It is important that we consolidate our relationship with all the countries of ASEAN and our near neighbourhood and we have been doing that. We have got very good bilateral relationships with Indonesia, most obviously manifested in the treaty last year, with Singapore who we have worked with on many other issues as well and Malaysia and the Philippines. I don't think our relationships in the area have been any better.

**J:** Will you be pressing the Prime Minister on the Gillespie children?

**PM:** No, I think, as with all human questions this is, like many family things a human tragedy, but it is essentially a legal matter. But, any information Mrs Gillespie has I am happy to hand on to our High Commissioner and he can propose it.

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