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PRIME MINISTER

26/96

**STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING MP
SAMANTHA RILEY, AND A LIBERAL PARTY DIRTY TRICK**

Tonight I have seen television reports of allegations made against me by Liberal Senator Ian Campbell, suggesting I had attempted to exclude Samantha Riley from the Prime Ministerial Women and Sport Awards.

As I have already made clear today, this claim is totally false and malicious. It is also an inappropriate and cynical use by the Coalition of a young Australian sporting champion who is facing an extremely difficult time in her career.

Samantha is already under extreme pressure, and I resent the Liberal Party's use of incorrect rumours to add to her burden.

This is typical of John Howard's leadership style. He spruiks integrity and honesty, and then authorises his shadow ministers to tell shameless downright lies.

I was delighted to be advised tonight that the independent committee which decides these awards has in fact confirmed that Samantha Riley will be a recipient when the awards are announced on Monday 26 February.

John Howard and Senator Campbell both owe Samantha Riley an apology for trying to use her name for the most rancid political motives. The man from Bennelong is going to use every dirty trick in the book to try to make himself Prime Minister.

**CANBERRA
14 February, 1996**

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