

DOORSTOP INTERVIEW, MELBOURNE, ON OLYMPIC GAMES

---

Question

(Inaudible)

Prime Minister

For a long while, the Australian Government tried to maintain the view that politics and sport should be kept quite separate and then everyone told us that you could not keep the two separate, and this was especially in relation to apartheid in South Africa. Governments that introduced politics into sport have really been responsible for bringing the two together. I think it is probably quite unreal for anyone today to pretend that there are not significant political implications in great sporting events, and it is unfortunate that that does apply to the Olympic Games just as much as to other things.

The suggestions that have been made that the Olympics should find a permanent home in Greece, I believe are well worth consideration. It would certainly prevent, I think, politicisation of the Olympics which is likely to happen if the nature of the Olympics is not altered. Another option for the future of the Games that instead of having a massive effort for the Games to be mounted in one country, may be to have them mounted in five or six countries which would enable a much larger number of countries to participate in presenting the Games than at the moment, because of the massive cost involved.