



PRIME MINISTER

E. & O. E. - PROOF ONLY

TRANSCRIPT - PRESS CONFERENCE, 6 MAY 1983

- P.M.-May I say and I hope it will be appreciated that given the circumstances to which I have alluded it would, in some senses, have been perhaps more appropriate to simply expect that the Government in those circumstances would be trusted to have acted for sound and appropriate reasons and I believe its going to be difficult, if not impossible, to have a normal question opportunity but I'm prepared to try and see if there are some matters which don't breach the obligations that I have to discharge in this matter, so I'm available.
- Q - Mr Hawke your house was broken into just before the elections. Do you see any connection between that and a report that Sir William McMahon's home was broken into just before he became Prime Minister?
- P.M.--No.
- Q - Mr Hawke, does Mr Toohey on his own now represent some kind of threat to Australian security?
- P.M.-I'm not prepared to comment on that.
- Q - Prime Minister will you be expecting any sort of protest say from countries like Papua New Guinea or explanations about allegations in the article
- P.M.-I think it very likely that there would be approaches for explanation.
- Q - Are you prepared to concede Prime Minister that some of the material published is in the public interest?
- P.M.-No.
- Q - What is your attitude in relation to information about prominent Australians being given to governments overseas, particularly the United States?
- P.M.-I am disturbed.
- Q - Prime Minister, will you be seeking to explain to countries such as Indonesia and Papua New Guinea the circumstances about these reports?
- P.M.-I can't imagine that the first two places that I'll be going to which are Papua New Guinea and Indonesia that the matter will not be raised.
- Q - What will you be saying to them sir?
- P.M.-I would imagine that you understand that its more appropriate that I should convey that directly to them, rather than through you.

- Q - Will you instigate a review of ASIO as a result of these allegations?
- P.M. - The decisions and actions of the government which are required in the light of what has been published to this stage will be a matter for determination by the Government.
- Q - Mr Hawke, do you believe the Australian public is entitled to know that the internal security service raided the home of a former Prime Minister, handed over information to the CIA about Australian politicians and Australian officers and gave to a right-wing body, the NCC, copious ASIO material. Is that in the public interest for people to know that?
- P.M. - They are serious allegations and there couldn't in terms of Australia's internal security and proper conduct of its affairs be much more serious allegations. The question of what is done to ascertain the accuracy or otherwise of the allegations and what may follow from that is obviously one of the matters for consideration by the Government and is being so considered.
- Q - Mr Hawke, what if any is your advice on how this mass of material should have gotten into the hands... (inaudible)
- P.M. - No we don't know. Clearly, as I am indicating, we are taking steps to try and find out.
- Q - ... do you believe this was brought about to embarrass your Government, to bring about memories of the previous Labor Governments and ASIO?
- P.M. - I'm not in a position to know why Mr Toohey has done what he's done.
- Q - Why did your injunction not seek to prevent the publication and distribution of this edition of The National Times?
- P.M. - It was already too late to do that.
- Q - How do you differentiate between (the activities of Mr Ivanov and those of our own agencies) ...?
- P.M. - Mr Ivanov is, to the best of my knowledge, is a citizen of the Soviet Union.

ENDS.