



PRIME MINISTER

FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF PM'S PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE ROYAL HOTEL, OSAKA AT 2.45 PM ON 3 FEBRUARY 1984.

E AND O E - PROOF ONLY

PM: THANK YOU LADIES AND GENTLEMEN FOR YOUR ATTENDANCE HERE. I WILL SAY A VERY BRIEF FEW WORDS IN OPENING AND THEN MAKE MYSELF AVAILABLE FOR QUESTIONING. THIS IS MY FIRST VISIT TO THE KANSAI AND I REGARD IT AS IMPORTANT BECAUSE OF THE LONG HISTORICAL LINKS BETWEEN THIS AREA AND AUSTRALIA. THE TWO CONDITIONS FOR STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES ARE FIRSTLY THAT OUR OWN ECONOMIES BE GROWING AND SECONDLY, THAT BETWEEN US WE RECOGNISE THE CHANGING STRUCTURES OF THOSE TWO ECONOMIES AND SEE THAT WE CAN ADJUST APPROPRIATELY TO GAIN MUTUAL ADVANTAGE FROM THOSE CHANGES. AND ON THOSE TWO POINTS I'M PLEASED TO REPORT TO YOU AS I DID IN MY MEETING BEFORE LUNCH WITH BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES FAVOURABLE DEVELOPMENTS. FIRSTLY, IN REGARD TO OUR OWN ECONOMY IN AUSTRALIA WE HAVE THE IN THIS LAST YEAR TURNED AROUND FROM A POSITION OF RECESSION TO SIGNIFICANT GROWTH. WE EXPECT OUR ECONOMY TO GROW THROUGH 1983/84 IN THE NON-FARM AREA OF GDP BY SOMETHING LIKE 6% AND WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT WILL CONTINUE BEYOND 1984. SECONDLY, IN RESPECT OF THE CHANGING STRUCTURE OF OUR ECONOMY THERE HAVE BEEN DEVELOPMENTS IN MY VISIT HERE WHICH INDICATE A PREPAREDNESS ON THE PART OF OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS TO MEET THOSE CHANGES. I REFER FIRSTLY TO THE AGREEMENT BY THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT TO SEND AN IMPORT EXPANSION MISSION TO AUSTRALIA AS THEY HAVE TO THE UNITED STATES AND THE EEC. SECONDLY, THE INVITATION THAT THEY HAVE EXTENDED TO ME TO SEND A HIGH LEVEL AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO JAPAN FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXAMINING NEW EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES IN JAPAN. SO THESE TWO FUNDAMENTAL CONDITIONS OF GROWTH AND A PREPAREDNESS TO ADJUST TO NEW AND CHANGING ECONOMIC STRUCTURES ARE BEING MET ON THIS BASIS, I HOPE, THAT THE ALREADY STRONG RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES - WITH THIS AREA IN PARTICULAR - WILL DEVELOP EVEN MORE STRONGLY INTO THE FUTURE.

JOURNALIST: WELL YOU REFERRED TO YOUR INTENTION TO STRENGTHEN THE LINK PARTICULARLY WITH THE KANSAI ECONOMY. IN SPECIFIC TERMS IN WHAT AREA ARE YOU GOING TO STRENGTHEN THAT TIE BETWEEN YOUR COUNTRY AND THE KANSAI AREA?

PM: WELL I SAID THAT THERE ARE TWO WAYS IN WHICH WE WANT TO CONFIRM AND STRENGTHEN THE ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP. AND WHAT I SAY GENERALLY TO JAPAN APPLIES TO THE KANSAI AREA. FIRST WE HAVE HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH LEADERS OF GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY TO ENSURE THAT AUSTRALIA MAINTAINS ITS SHARE IN THE TRADITIONAL AREAS OF SUPPLY WHICH, OF COURSE INCLUDES MINERAL PRODUCTS AND PRIMARY PRODUCTS - PARTICULARLY BEEF. THAT THERE HAS BEEN PERHAPS A FEAR THAT WE WOULD LOSE SOME OF THE SHARE IN THAT AREA EITHER BECAUSE OF POLICIES OF DIVERSIFICATION WHICH WERE NOT ALWAYS MADE ON PURELY COMMERCIAL GROUNDS AND ALSO RELATED TO THAT IS A RESULT

OF BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS UNDERTAKEN BY JAPAN WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN WHICH OUR INTERESTS MAY HAVE BEEN PREJUDICED. AND SO I HAVE SECURED, I BELIEVE, IN THE DISCUSSIONS WITH MR NAKASONE AND OTHERS AN UNDERSTANDING THAT PROVIDED THAT AUSTRALIA REMAINS A COMPETITIVE AND RELIABLE SUPPLIER - WHICH WE WILL - THEN THE SHARE THAT AUSTRALIA'S ENJOYED IN THESE TRADITIONAL MARKETS WILL BE MAINTAINED. SO THAT'S, IF YOU LIKE, THE STEPS THAT WE'VE TAKEN BE MAINTAINED. SO THAT'S, IF YOU LIKE, THE STEPS THAT WE'VE TAKEN IN REGARD TO OUR EXISTING MAJOR AREAS OF TRADING RELATIONSHIPS. BUT SECONDLY, WE HAVE BEEN CONCERNED TO RECOGNISE THAT THE PROJECTIONS MADE IN THE PREVIOUS YEARS ABOUT THE SORTS OF LEVELS OF EXPORT OF OUR RAW MATERIALS ARE IN THE PROCESS OF BEING REVISED BECAUSE OF THE CHANGE IN THE ECONOMIC STRUCTURE OF JAPAN. THEREFORE, WE ARE LOOKING AS TO HOW WE CAN IN FACT EXPORT MORE IN THE AREA OF MANUFACTURED GOODS AND OF SERVICES TO JAPAN. AND IT'S PRECISELY IN THOSE AREAS THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS WE HAVE COME TO IN REGARD TO THE IMPORT EXPANSION TEAMS FROM JAPAN INTO OUR COUNTRY AND THE MISSION TO JAPAN FROM AUSTRALIAN ARE RELEVANT. IM MAY ALSO MENTION THAT WE HAVE HIRED TWO JAPANESE CONSULTANCY FIRMS TO ASSIST US IN THE EXAMINATION OF THESE AREAS. SO WHILE I CAN'T BE PRECISE IN REGARD TO THE AREAS OF MANUFACTURED GOOD AND SERVICES, BECAUSE WHAT WE'LL BE ABLE TO DO IN THAT AREA WILL IN FACT COME OUT OF THESE EXAMINATIONS WE'RE UNDERTAKING, WE DO BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE THE CAPACITY IN AUSTRALIA TO PROVIDE PARTICULAR AREAS OF MANUFACTURED GOODS AND SERVICES AS PART OF THE JAPANESE MARKET. AND LET ME SAY THAT THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN IN THAT IS THAT OF COURSE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOME OF OUR AREAS OF MANUFACTURING CAPACITY WE WILL BE LOOKING TO JAPANESE INVESTMENT TO HELP US DEVELOP THOSE AREAS. WE HAVE ALREADY BEEN ABLE TO POINT TO SOME AREAS OF MANUFACTURED GOODS AND SERVICES IN JAPAN BEING SUCCESSFUL. WHAT WE MUST DO NOW IS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CHANGES IN JOB NEEDS APPROACH - THE JAPANESE APPROACH - WHICH IS OPENING UP SECTORS OF THE MANUFACTURING MARKET HERE. WE BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE THE CAPACITY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT.

CAN I JUST BRIEFLY MAKE THIS POINT - IF ONE KNEW ALL THE PRECISE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTION ONE WOULDN'T NEED TO HAVE THESE IMPORT EXPANSION MISSIONS IN AUSTRALIA OR A BUSINESS MISSION FROM AUSTRALIA TO JAPAN OR TO EMPLOY THESE CONSULTANCY FIRMS. BUT I DO MAKE THIS POINT THAT I BELIEVE THAT ONE AREA WHICH IS OBVIOUSLY OPEN FOR SIGNIFICANT EXPANSION IS IN PROCESSED FOODSTUFFS. WE ARE OBVIOUSLY WELL PLACED TO MANUFACTURE IN THAT AREA AND WITH THE RISING STANDARDS OF LIVING IN JAPAN IT SHOULD BE VERY RECEPTIVE MARKET FOR MANY OF OUR PRODUCTS IN THAT AREA. I USE THAT AS AN EXAMPLE.

JOURNALIST: YOU INDICATED YOUR INTENTION TO INVITE MORE INVESTMENT IN MANUFACTURING SECTORS IN AUSTRALIA. DOES EPAC HAVE ANY DISCUSSIONS ON THE WOULD BE POLICIES AS TO THE INTRODUCTION OF INVESTMENT FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

PM: THE BASIC RESPONSIBILITY OF EPAC IS TO CONCERN ITSELF WITH MEDIUM TO LONGER TERM ECONOMIC GROWTH PATHS FOR AUSTRALIA. CLEARLY AS PART OF THE THINKING OF EPAC AS TO WHERE AUSTRALIA SHOULD MOVE TO MAXIMISE ITS GROWTH POTENTIAL, YES IT WILL BE CONCERNED AMONGST A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES WITH THE QUESTION OF THE PLACE FOR FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN THAT GROWHT. BUT THAT WILL BE IN TERMS OF THE LONGER TERM PLANNING MECHANISMS IN THE FUNCTIONAL SENSE OF MAKING DECISION ABOUT PARTICULAR INVESTMENT PROPOSALS, FOREIGN INVESTMENT PROPSALS. EPAC HAS NO ROLE IN THAT. THAT IS SOMETHING WHICH IS WITHIN THE PERVIEW OF THE MECHANISM THATWE HAVE IN PLACE THAT IS THE FOREIGN INVESTMENT REVIEW BOARD.

JOURNALIST: PRIME MINISTER ONE OF THE DECISIONS YOUR GOVERNMENT WILL BE FACING FAIRLY SOON CONCERNS THE LEVELS OF PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE TO THE AUSTRALIAN CAR INDUSTRY. COULD YOU TELL US HOW CONFIDENT YOU FEEL THAT WE CAN USE THE APPROACH YOU'VE OUTLINED HERE IN TOKYO TO INCREASE BOTH THE EFFICIENCY OF THE INDUSTRY AND ALSO LOWER PROTECTION BARRIERS WHEN THE GOVERNMENT MAKES THESE DECISIONS.

PM: I CAN'T ANSWER THAT QUESTION AT THIS POINT. AS YOU KNOW THE FIRST STAGE OF THE PROCESS OF REVIEWING WHAT IS TO OCCUR AFTER THE EXPIRY OF THE PLAN WHICH IS OPERATING UP UNTIL THE END OF THIS YEAR HAS ALREADY BEEN UNDERTAKEN. SENATOR BUTTON SET UP THE COMMITTEE OF THE INTERESTED ELEMENTS IN THE INDUSTRY TO REVIEW THE POSITION AND MAKE SUGGESTIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT. THAT HAS NOT RESULTED IN ANY COMMON POSITION BEING PUT FROM THE PARTS OF THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERING WHAT IS APPROPRIATE FOR THE FUTURE. AND I CAN'T PRE-EMPT THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH ARE TAKING PLACE WITHIN THE RELEVANT DEPARTMENTS OF GOVERNMENT. BU I WILL SAY THIS, THAT I WILL BE EXPECTING THAT WHAT WE DO IN RESPECT OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE MANUFACTURING COMPONENT INDUSTRY AND WHICH WILL COME INTO EFFECT IN 1985 WILL REFLECT BASICALLY THE THRUST THAT I HAVE BEEN ALLUDING TO RECENTLY AND MORE PARTICULARLY IN THE SPEECH THAT I MADE TODAY BY THE RELEVANT DEPARTMENTS. AND I HAVE TO ADMIT THAT THAT CONSIDERATION HAS NOT BEEN GREATLY ASSISTED BY THE CONSIDERATIONS OF THE INDUSTRY, BY THE INDUSTRY ITSELF.

JOURNALIST: I HAVE A QUESTION CONCERNING A KOALA BEAR. THE CITY OF OSAKA AS WELL AS THE CITY OF NAGOYA HAS BEEN REQUESTING ABOUT RECEIVING KOALA BEARS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT AT THE DINNER MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER NAKASONE YOU MENTIONED SEVERAL KOALA BEARS TO BE BROUGHT INTO JAPAN. WHEN YOU MENTIONED SEVERAL KOALA BEARS DID YOU INCLUDE THOSE TO BE SENT TO THE CITY OF OSAKA AND IS IT POSSIBLE FOR THE CITY OF OSAKA TO GET KOALA BEARS, AND IF IT'S POSSIBLE, WHEN?

PM: HERE IS A CLEAR AREA FOR SIGNIFICANT EXPANSION IN TRADING OPPORTUNITIES. I HAVEN'T MET ANYTHING SINCE I'VE BEEN IN JAPAN FOR WHICH THERE IS A GREATER DEMAND THAN KOALAS. SO WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO SATISFY THAT DEMAND AND I BELIEVE THAT ACCORDING TO MY KOALA BEAR ADVISERS THAT THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SPEND KOALAS TO A NUMBER OF ZOOS AND I'M GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND THAT OSAKA IS VERY HIGH ON THE LIST OF PRIORITIES. AND IF I COULD USE A PHRASE WHICH HAS COME TO HAVE SOME CURRENCY IN RECENT MONTHS IN AUSTRALIA - I THINK THAT WE WILL SEE KOALAS IN PLACE IF NOT IN GUM TREES IN OSAKA BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR. COULD I ADD THAT I HAVE IN MY MINISTRY A MINISTER WHO HAS A PARTICULAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE KOALA BEAR. MR BROWN, AND HE HAS TO MAKE UP TO THE KOALA BEAR BECAUSE HE WAS NOT QUITE AS FRIENDLY AS HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN IN HIS DESCRIPTION OF THIS BEAUTIFUL CREATURE IN THE PAST AND I MAY SEE IF I CAN ARRANGE TO SEND HIM HERE WITH THE FIRST KOALA BEAR JUST TO PROVE THAT HE HAS MADE HIS PEACE WITH THE KOALA BEAR.

JOURNALIST: MR HAWKE YOU EMPHASISED IN YOUR SPEECH TODAY THAT THE WHOLE COMMUNITY ... STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT ... IN PREVIOUS TIMES ... SPECIFIC PROGRAMS TO HELP THOSE EFFECTED BY STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENTS. DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIFIC IDEAS ABOUT HOW WE CAN CHANGE OVER ...

PM: YES, I DO HAVE A NUMBER OF IDEAS ABOUT THIS. I'LL JUST GO TO THEM VERY BRIEFLY BUT I PREFACE WHAT I HAVE TO SAY BY REMAINING YOU THAT AS I SAID IN THE SPEECH I, TOGETHER WITH NEIL CURRIE, AS A MEMBER OF THE CRAWFORD COMMITTEE WHICH MET IN 1978/79 AND YOU WILL RECALL FROM YOUR EXTENSIVE READING OF THAT WELL REMEMBERED REPORT THAT WE ADDRESSED OURSELVES VERY SPECIFICALLY TO THIS QUESTION IN THAT REPORT. AND THE SORTS OF THINGS THAT I WOULD SAY IN ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION NOW REALLY ARE A REFLECTION OF WHAT WE SAID THEN. LET ME PICK UP BRIEFLY SOME OF THE THINGS THAT WE SAID. THE FIRST THING THAT WE SAID IS THAT THE BEST FORM OF ASSISTANCE THAT CAN BE PROVIDED TO PEOPLE LIKELY TO BE EFFECTED BY CHANGE, IS THAT THE INDUSTRY AND THE FIRM ITSELF SHOULD IN ADVANCE OF CHANGE CONSULT WITH THOSE WHO ARE LIKELY TO BE EFFECTED, SO THAT THEY ARE NOT FACED SUDDENLY WITHOUT THE OPPORTUNITY THEMSELVES AND THE COMMUNITY OF ASSISTING THEM TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TRAINING AND RETRAINING OR RE-LOCATION SCHEMES. SO PRIOR CONSULTATION WITHIN THE WORKFORCE LIKELY TO BE EFFECTED IS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT. SECONDLY, WE SAID THAT FIRMS THEMSELVES SHOULD UNDERTAKE PROCESSES CONTINUOUSLY OF TRAINING AND RETRAINING FOR CHANGE. THIRDLY, WE INDICATED THAT GOVERNMENTS SHOULD GIVE EMPHASIS IN THEIR TOTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM TO ADULT TRAINING AND RETRAINING, AND EMPHASIS WHICH HASN'T BEEN PARTICULARLY APPARENT IN THE AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM IN THE PAST. SO THAT PEOPLE WHO HAVE LEFT THE FORMAL EDUCATION SYSTEM IN THE PAST. SO THAT PEOPLE WHO HAVE LEFT THE FORMAL EDUCATION SYSTEM AND HAVE GONE INTO THE WORKFORCE ARE GOING TO HAVE AVAILABLE TO THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO RE-EQUIP THEMSELVES FOR NEW POSSIBLE AVENUES OF EMPLOYMENT. THE NEXT THING THAT I WOULD SAY IS THAT WE NEED TO HAVE PROVISIONS FOR POSSIBLE RE-LOCATION ASSISTANCE IF PEOPLE MAY HAVE TO MOVE FROM ONE AREA TO ANOTHER. THAT BURDEN SHOULDN'T BE BORNE BY THEM ALONE. THOSE ARE, IF YOU LIKE, SOME OF THE MORE OBVIOUS FEATURES OF WHAT WE NEED TO DO. AND THE BROAD THINGS WE HAVE ALREADY STRARTED, AS YOU KNOW, TO MAKE DECISIONS WITH REGARD TO THE PROVISION OF VENTURE CAPITAL IN AUSTRALIA AND ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT. THE POINT OF THESE THINGS IS TO HAVE GOVERNMENTS PROVIDING ASSISTANCE FOR THE CREATION OF LIKELY NEW INDUSTRIES. WE CANT SIMPLY SIT BACK AND SAY WELL, THIS PARTICULAR INDUSTRY IS BECOMING LESS RELEVANT - YOU ARE ACTIVELY TAKING STEPS TO TRY AND EITHER BUILD UP EXISTING INDUSTRIES OR CREATE NEW ONES. SO WITHOUT BEING EXHAUSTIVE THOSE ARE SOME OF THE THINGS THAT WILL NEED TO BE CONSIDERED BY MY GOVERNMENT AND TO BE DISCUSSED BY THE COMMUNITY. WE HAVE, AS YOU CAN SEE, ALREADY MADE SOME DECISIONS WHICH ARE RELEVANT IN THIS DIRECTION. NOW THE PACE AT WHICH WE CAN GO AS A COMMUNITY TO MAKE THE FURTHER SORTS OF CHANGES TO WHICH I HAVE ALLUDED WILL DEPEND UPON THE EXTENT OF CONSULTATIONS WITH INDUSTRY, THE UNIONS AND WITHIN GOVERNMENT. AND ITS THAT PROCESS WHICH WE WILL BE URGENTLY UNDERTAKING.

JOURNALIST: PRIME MINISTER AS YOU SAID EARLIER THE AUSTRALIAN/JAPAN RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN VERY STRONG AND AS YOU JUST SAID YOU ARE GOING TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN OUR RELATIONSHIP. I THINK IN THIS REGARD IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE PEOPLE OF BOTH NATIONS TO KNOW EACH OTHER. SO WITH REGARD TO THE CULTURAL ASPECTS OF RELATIONSHIPS IN CULTURAL TERMS - OF COURSE AUSTRALIANS, I THINK, SOME EXCHANGES HAVE TAKEN PLACE, FOR EXAMPLE, AT PRIVATE LEVELS - FOR EXAMPLE SOME UNVIERSITIES ARE EXCHANGING FACULTY MEMBERS OR STUDENTS. WELL ON THE PART OF YOUR GOVERNMENT DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIFIC IDEA OR POLICY TO PROMOTE THE CULTURAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

PM: YES, IT IS PART OF OUR OVERALL THINKING ABOUT HOW TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. YOU REFERRED TO EXCHANGES AT THE ACADEMIC LEVEL - THEY ARE TAKING PLACE. I THINK ONE OF THE BASIC THINGS THAT WE HAVE TO LOOK AT IN ADDRESSING THAT QUESTION IS THE ACTUAL PROVISIONS FOR PHYSICALLY MOVING PEOPLE BETWEEN JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA AND I MUST SAY THAT THERE HAVE BEEN SOME SUGGESTIONS THAT THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY OUR TWO AIRLINES MAY NOT ALWAYS HAVE AS ADEQUATE AS THEY MIGHT BE. AN I KNOW THERE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSIONS GOING ON BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENT AND OUR AIRLINES AS TO HOW WE MAY BE ABLE TO IMPROVE THE FACILITIES FOR TRAVELLING, QANTAS AND JAPAN AIRLINES. AND I WOULD CERTAINLY HOPE THAT WE MAY BE ABLE TO MAKE EASIER TRAVEL BETWEEN THESE TWO COUNTRIES. NOW AS TO SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE STRENGTHENING OF CULTURAL RELATIONSHIPS, I HAVEN'T MYSELF COME WITH ANY PROPOSALS, BUT I CAN SAY THIS TO YOU, THAT ANY SUGGESTION THAT MAY BE FORTHCOMING FROM RELEVANT ORGANISATIONS IN JAPAN FOR INCREASING THE LEVEL OF CULTURAL EXCHANGE WOULD BE ELOMED BY US. AND IN TURN MY GOVERNMENT WOULD WISH TO SEE ANY EXTENSION OF ACTIVITY FROM AUSTRALIA COMING TO YOUR COUNTRY. WE BELIEVE VERY STRONGLY, AS I'VE SAID BEFORE, GOVERNMENTS CAN DO SO MUCH IN PROVIDING A BASIC FRAMEWORK FOR IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. OBVIOUSLY THOSE SORTS OF THINGS NEED TO BE FLESHED OUT BY THE ACTIVITY OF THE PEOPLE. WE ARE PROUD IN AUSTRALIA OF THE DIVERSITY OF CULTURAL ACHIEVEMENTS WHICH WE PRESENT - WE HAVE EXPORTED MANY OF THOSE TO MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD. AN THEY RANGE FROM DANCE, THEATRE, BALLET AND FILM, WITHOUT BEING EXHAUSTIVE. WE ARE PROUD OF WHAT WE CAN SHOW TO THE REST OF THE WORLD IN THE AREA OF CULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT AND WE WOULD WISH TO SHARE THESE WITH YOUR COUNTRY AND IN RETURN TO RECEIVE IN AUSTRALIA THE MANY DIVERSE MANIFESTATIONS OF YOUR RICH CULTURAL TRADITIONS. I REPEAT AND EMPHASISE THAT ANY SPECIFIC PROPOSALS THAT THERE MAY BE WITHIN JAPAN TO STRENGTHEN SUCH RELATIONSHIPS WE WOULD WELCOME.

PM: BEFORE WE FINISH THIS SESSION I DO NEED TO CLARIFY ONE MATTER. IF WE GO FROM CULTURE BACK TO KOALAS. IT HAS BEEN POINTED OUT TO ME AND I WAS UNCERTAIN IN THIS REGARD AND IT APPROPRIATE THAT IT BE CORRECTED, THAT THE ZOO FACILITIES HRE OSAKA, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, HAVE NOT BEEN PREPARED AT THIS POINT TO RECEIVE THIS DELICATE CREATURE. AN I SAY SERIOUSLY THAT IS IS A DELICATE CREATURE. YOU JUST CAN'T SEND A KOALA NYWHERE. AND THERE ARE OTHER ZOOS, AND I THINK PARTICULARLY NAGOYA, WHICH HAVE MADE MUCH MORE EXTENSIVE PREPARATIONS FOR RECIEIVING THE KOALA. SO YOU WILL APPRECIATE THE IMPORTANCE WHICH WE ATTACH TO THIS UNIQUE ANIMAL AND WE ARE NOT GOING TO BE PREPARED TO EXPOSE IT TO ENVIRONMENTS WITHIN WHICH WE THINK IT WILL NOT BE ABLE SECURELY TO FLOURSIH. AND SO IT IS THE CASE THAT WHEN WE DO SEND A KOALA TO JPAN THAT IT FIRST GO TO THOSE ZOOS WHICH HAVE DONE THE MOST WORK IN PREPARATION TO ENSURE THE SAFETY, NOT MERELY THE SAFETY BUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY, OF THE KOALA. AND AS I UNDERSTAND IT NAGOYA IS THE ZOO WHICH HAS AT THIS STAGE BEST PREPARED AND BEST PLACED. SO IF OSAKA HAS WANT TO SHARE OUR NATIONAL TREASURE IN THIS REGARD IT WILL HAVE TO MAKE ADEQUATE PREPARATIONS TO RECEIVE THE KOALA.