



PRIME MINISTER

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JOURNALIST: Prime Minister the situation in the Philippines is very much in our affairs right now. What do you think President Marcos should do?

PM: I believe he should stand-down. All the evidence shows that the election was fraudulent and the only guarantee that you can have now, I think, that you're not going to have a situation of the country being plunged into chaos and bloodshed is that he should stand-down.

JOURNALIST: What's the Australian Government's greatest fear? The care of the people there, or a strategic thing?

PM: No the people. I mean it's a country of considerable natural richness and wealth and I believe that what is required there, as far as the welfare of the people of the Philippines is concerned, is a government that's going to concentrate upon trying to ensure economic and social development. That hasn't been happening and that is a major consideration. Of course security situations do come into it, but it is not, as far as I'm concerned, the prime consideration. Nor do I believe it's the prime consideration of the United States administration. I think the Secretary of State, George Schultz, said very eloquently recently, democracy comes before bases.

JOURNALIST: And there's one last point. If Mr Marcos doesn't heed the advice of the Americans, or the Australians, or other people around the world what can you foresee happening there?

PM: If he doesn't stand down you can see nothing, as I say, but chaos and bloodshed and I would think that Marcos should understand that after 20 years, if I can say it in this environment, he's had his innings, time to retire.

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