



PRIME MINISTER

E & O E - PROOF ONLY

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW AT GOLDEN BULL GUEST HOUSE - CHENGDU
21 MAY 1986

JOURNALIST: Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher seems to be saying that she doesn't believe that South Africa's military raid challenges or questions the effectiveness of sanctions. What is your view on the raid and should we be imposing sanctions?

PM: Well the view of the Australian Government about the raids is it is a totally objectionable and reprehensible and an unacceptable intrusion into the affairs of sovereign and independent countries. I have had transmitted to the South African Government that view of the Australian Government. As to the effect that this may have on the processes that have been initiated by the Commonwealth I can't say with authority on that. It must impose a considerable strain upon them and I have yet to hear from Mr Fraser and the other people associated with the eminent persons group.

JOURNALIST: So the question of sanctions would depend very much on their assessment, their report?

PM: Well, that would be a relevant factor. What have I have asked to be done, I have sent a cable back to Australia and asked that there be prepared for Cabinet consideration a submission by the Department of Foreign Affairs in consultation with my own Department so that Cabinet can consider this matter on my return.