



PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF SPEECH AT PELLA, JORDAN, 25 JANUARY 1987

E & O E - PROOF ONLY

PM: Thank you Basil. I would just like to say on behalf of Hazel and myself and I am sure the whole party, two things really. How interested we are in what you are doing. But secondly, which flows from that, how proud we are of what you are doing. You may have gathered that as far as I am concerned and the Government is concerned, we have a very warm relationship with the Government and the people of Jordan. And it is extremely satisfying to me Basil, to see here in such a practical way a group of Australians is working in association with the Jordanian Government and people to do work which is, I think, immeasurable in its value. And that it is a group of Australians, gives me a very great sense of pride. So rather than just being a politician who is saying I am proud and it is nice I thought I would try and be a bit more practical than that and promise you two things that would be of value to you. I am not quite sure of what the order of importance is to you but I will put them in this order and you can make it either ascending or descending order. Firstly, I understand that while you are battlers - you are prepared to live in adversity under tough circumstances, like pioneers - there is one thing up without you will not put and that is Vegemite and that you are down on supplies of Vegemite. So I hereby give you a solemn non-politician's undertaking to see that you get a good supply of Vegemite sent to you. Secondly, you have told me and I was surprised, that you really only operate for basically about 3 months of the year and then it is closed down. And that that means that there is an enormous backlog of work that accumulates and that you would be able to operate very, very much more efficiently if you had the wherewithall to have a couple of people here fulltime. I asked you ideally what you would like to see and you said if you could have a couple of people here to do that, to continue the cataloguing of work that is done that would make life easier but more importantly it would make it more efficient. The second undertaking I give you is that I will, on my return to Australia, undertake to find from my contacts within the private sector \$30,000 a year so that you can do that.

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