



PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF DEPARTURE COMMENTS, AMMAN AIRPORT, JORDAN
26 JANUARY 1987

E & O E - PROOF ONLY

PM: I would like in the presence of my friend the Prime Minister to say these things. Firstly, to thank the Prime Minister and His Majesty and the Government and the people of Jordan for the the great warmth of the welcome that they have extended me and to my party. Secondly, to thank them for the frankness of the discussions. I couldn't have asked for a more detailed exposition of the view of the Jordanian Government on the important issues of the region - the Israeli/Arab dispute ... bilateral discussions between our two countries, again they were marked by frankness, directness and a clear hope that we can increase the already significant relationship that exists between us. I had the opportunity of coming to Jordan twice before - in 1978 and 1980 - and on that occasion formed the impression that this was a country of people with whom I could feel very close. Having come here in the capacity of Prime Minister of my country I have had the opportunity of having those feelings confirmed. I am impressed the characteristics of friendliness, integrity and courage which which I believe typify the leadership of this country. And certainly I am convinced that they are totally committed to finding a just and reasonable and durable solution to the problems of this region. And I certainly will do whatever I can - having listened carefully to the sorts of things that they have been saying - to, in whatever small way it is, to help advance that cause to peace to which I know they are so committed. I will certainly leave this country with the warmest of feelings to His Majesty, the Prime Minister and the people of Jordan. May I say finally that I hope very much in the not too distant future His Majesty and the Prime Minister will be able to accept the invitation that I have extended to them to visit Australia.

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