



PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING OFFICIAL LUNCH,
CYPRUS, 26 JANUARY 1987

E & O E - PROOF ONLY

I[?] am a member of the Commonwealth Committee of Cyprus.

Hawke Commonwealth Action Group.....

Quest. And which way this Action Group is working to happier days.

Well it has had three meetings since its formation; and the view that it has taken and I think understood by our friends is that it would keep a monitoring role upon the discussions and processes under the aegis of the United Nations Secretary-General. If at some point it would appear/^{appropriate} that some other role, then that would be considered but I think that its understood at this stage that the appropriate process, but I would think that at our meeting in October President Kyprianou would be reporting to the Commonwealth what had transpired at that time and the Commonwealth would have considered at that stage in October[?] this year consider if there was any other avenue open to it as Commonwealth.

Quest. What is the secret/^{of the equality} of the Greek Cypriot in the

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What is the secret? Well I can only really speak of the periods since 1983 as to why they are happy now and that is because good government is being provided which ~~is~~^{was} read a significant economic recovery which they have participated but I may add too to that point, but I think the secret of the success, ~~is~~ not merely the happiness and the capacity of Greek and Turkish Cypriots to live together but more broadly the capacity of people from scores of different countries to live together is that there is a gratitude on the part of Australians as what we describe as a "fair go", that's an Australian expression, fair go and stripped of all the academic jargon that might be developed by sociologists around that point, I think it simply means that every person irrespective of sex, religion, ethnic origin ought to have the opportunity in freedom to develop his or her capacity to the full. That's the attitude of Australians, and we try to make that work as perfectly as we can and within that framework that people of different backgrounds are able to live peacefully together and perhaps in that way that has some lessons ^{beyond} ~~from~~ the shores of Australia.

Q. What are you expecting from your mission in the Middle East?

Hawke: Oh, just let me repeat what I've said before, we haven't come to ^{the} Middle East crossing ourselves as mediators, as people with any especial expertise but rather we are coming as a country which I think is in good standing with the countries that we are visiting: Jordan, Israel and Egypt - a country which has a concern, not only about the tragedy or potential tragedy of a conflict in that region, but also as a country which has strong ties bilaterally, a country who has a large part of export

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trade
and import/passes through the region, a large part of his communication passes through the region, so I've come essentially to have a listen, be informed of the perspectives of the leadership of the countries in question and I've simply said if there's any way at all which Australia may be able to be of assistance then of course we would be available but I had not in any sense meant to exaggerate a role for Australia.

Q. What does your country think of the International Conference in Cyprus?

Hawke: Well the President has put the view to us that that could be an appropriate course of action - we have said that at this stage we see the office of the Secretary-General as being appropriate to pursue the issue that has not precluded at some stage the possibility of such a conference, but it seems at this stage that the issues dividing the party is so complex that an amount of work remains to be done, but it could be that at some stage the appropriate course of action again in the end these matters will only be dissolved if there is the will on the part of the immediate parties concerned, and I would simply like to say that as a result of the meeting that I have had today with the President I have absolutely no doubt about the will, and the commitment and the integrity of the President and his Government to effect a solution.