



PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF COMMENTS AT YAD VASHEM, JERUSALEM, 27 JANUARY 1987

E & O E - PROOF ONLY

Journalist: Your reactions?

PM: Well, I think that anyone who wants to understand the commitment of the Jewish people and the creation of the State of Israel, their commitment to ensuring that Israel will have the right to exist, the time to secure and recognise boundaries into the future, only has to come to Yad Vashem to understand the depth of that commitment and similarly, I think anyone who tries to understand the commitment of others to the State of Israel - only has to come to Yad Vashem, that says it all better than any book or any speech.

Journalist: Mr Hawke, the Wiesenthal Institution said yesterday something about another commitment, a commitment to finding war criminals, and bringing them to trial, what are you doing about this?

PM: Well, what we did in Australia when we had information handed to my colleague Bill Hayden in the United States was in fact in Australia to establish an inquiry under a respected eminent retired public servant, Mr Menzies. We have received that report, the Government is now considering it and we will in the light of our considerations of that report, undertake what steps are necessary to give effect in our judgement to the recommendations of Mr Menzies.

Journalist: In your opinion, what should be done?

PM: Well, we're a democracy and I will consider that in conjunction with my colleagues. I don't pronounce in advance dictatorial statements. We've had enough of those in the past, haven't we.

Journalist: Thank you very much.