



PRIME MINISTER

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JOURNALIST: What does it feel like being in the Olympic Stadium?

PM: It's a great thrill particularly with the reproduction up there of the Australian team's involvement and the highlights they have just shown of Duncan Armstrong's great swim. I can understand the sense of pride of the Koreans too in their achievement here of creating these facilities. Truly, it's truly marvellous.

JOURNALIST: What is your message for Melbourne out of this? What have you learnt?

PM: I have learnt that Korea has set a standard of excellence which is going to be hard to match and so if we get the games, and I hope we do, then they must come and learn from Korea. It's a great credit to them.

JOURNALIST: Have the Koreans given you any hints about how Melbourne can get the bid successfully?

PM: Well I have had a bit of a discussion with President Roh about this and I think that they will be helpful.

JOURNALIST: Can Melbourne afford these resources and facilities Prime Minister?

PM: It is not just a question of Melbourne -

JOURNALIST: Can Australia?

PM: Yes of course we can because they're not just something for the moment, as it were, of the Olympics. They are something that will provide a lasting facility as we learnt from 1956.

JOURNALIST: When you say that the Koreans might help Australia, in what way are you talking about?

PM: The President has indicated that they have learnt a lot in the process of actually getting the games and then of going about the task of building the facilities. He was very positive about his attitude to us. He acknowledged the sentimental favouritism, if you like, of Greece - which we understand - but it doesn't mean that that will be the outcome. I think we can look forward to a great deal of assistance from Korea.

JOURNALIST: Are there any specific plans already or are they still some way off?

PM: No, nothing specific we talked about, but I certainly got the impression that a very considerable amount of help would be forthcoming from that quarter.

JOURNALIST: Were there any hints for lobbying the International Olympic Committee?

PM: Now if I talked about that they wouldn't remain useful would they.

JOURNALIST: Mr Hawke, since yesterday's press conference have you had any discussions with the ACTU leadership on the issue of the CPI?

PM: No, not since then. As I said, I had my briefing with the ministers before I left and they know what my thinking is on this and I am sure that they will be handling it correctly.

JOURNALIST: Prime Minister, three of the main banks have said this morning that housing interest rates will be up by the end of this week. Is that a disappointment to you?

PM: Well, we'll see. Yes it would be if it goes up much higher. But I said what I think about the stance of monetary policy and the Treasurer and I have the same view about that. But, as I said, what happens in the market is in a sense for the market. But we are not in a position at this stage of tightening monetary policy ourselves.

JOURNALIST: So you wouldn't expect the Reserve Bank to validate market increases next week?

PM: No, that is not in my anticipation at this stage. I have left Australia now and as I have said, I had the meeting with the ministers and I have confidence in them that in all areas of relevant policy they will be making the right decisions.

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