



PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF NEWS CONFERENCE, WARREN SNOWDON'S OFFICE,
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E & O E - PROOF ONLY

JOURNALIST: Prime Minister do you have any comment to make on the latest Friedrich story, that he was involved with ASIS and that he is in fact a German citizen?

PM: I don't know about the German citizen part, but I have nothing to add to the comments that I made before and that is that on the advice available to me, there is no substance in the allegations about intelligence connections. That's what I've been informed.

JOURNALIST: What information do you know about him, Prime Minister from intelligence -

PM: You know very well that I don't talk about communications I have with intelligence other than to make the statement that I have made.

JOURNALIST: There's one report this morning that he was involved in a fraud case in West Germany Sir, do we know anything about that, any previous history -

PM: I don't know anything about that, but as I've said before what I did was to ask for a report in respect of any indications in areas of Commonwealth responsibility and information I have in this report, there is nothing in that area, but if there is any other matter which involves State jurisdiction, that's a matter for the States.

JOURNALIST: Mr Hawke, Mr Howard seems to have had something of a victory in Victoria by getting a joint Senate ticket

PM: Well I wouldn't count those particular rule of chickens yet, there's a lot of hatching to be done yet. Senator McGauran doesn't seem to regard it as a victory. I think there's a lot of dirty water that's gone under those bridges

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JOURNALIST: Mr Hawke, have you read the latest article in the Bulletin about the increase in racism around Australia? In light of your comments last night -

PM: I thought you were going to refer to another article in the Bulletin. I haven't read the article but I've skimmed it. I intend to read it on the plane going back. Well, I think we have to be honest and say that there is racism in Australia. I've never disguised that, but my own view is that one of the outcomes of 1988 is that we are becoming more understanding and more tolerant society, but it would be dishonest with ourselves to disguise the fact that there are elements of racism in this country, there are some dark and sinister forces and organisations who are seeking to trade on prejudices. The basic point that Australia has to understand, as I've been saying before and as you heard me say last night, is that if people want to be nothing short of treacherous to the welfare of their children and future generations, then the best thing they can do to hurt their own children's future interests, is to preach this sort of gospel of hatred because it will condemn Australia in the eyes of the region and in the eyes of the world. You can't, as I said here in Darwin last night, in a city which pre-eminently proves the virtues of multiculturalism, the absence of discrimination, you can't have a double standard in respect of the people of this region. You can't say 'we love to trade with you, we love your commerce, we love your economics, but you're second class citizens'. That's not on.

JOURNALIST: You were fairly strong on that last night Prime Minister?

PM: Not just last night, I've been strong on it all my life.

JOURNALIST: Do you expect it become an election issue, that the immigration -

PM: I would hope not. I sincerely hope, as I've said in the Parliament and outside, by the time we come to the next election which is still a long way away, that there will be a resumption of what has been for the last virtually generation in this country, bipartisanship on this issue. I sincerely hope that that will be the case.

JOURNALIST: How would you if it's not, Sir?

PM: Oh well, that's hypothetical.

JOURNALIST: Have you been told by leaders of trading nations, that that's their attitude to us, that -

PM: Well, of course it's been said, yes, but you don't need to be an intellectual genius or very deeply immersed in the political process to understand the reality of it.

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