



PRIME MINISTER

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E & OE - PROOF ONLY

JOURNALIST: What do you expect the reaction will be to your decision to extend visas to Chinese nationals?

PM: I hope that it will be understood as a compassionate and responsible decision. We understand that it would be intolerable to have a situation in this country where any of these students here or people from China face the prospect of repression or punishment on their return. So we've made this extension of stay and we will have a considered Cabinet submission which looks at all the implications of what needs to be done now to ensure that the interests of these people are properly catered for.

JOURNALIST: Is it possible we may have to boost our refugee quota Mr Hawke?

PM: That could be the case. Just what sort of categories all these people would come into, how it will be handled, it is obviously part of the consideration I want in the Cabinet submission. The important immediate thing is to give these people the confidence that they need that they are not going to be under any pressure whatsoever. Because it is intolerable in light of what's happening in China that they should be subject to any fear of being returned to that situation at risk.

JOURNALIST: Do you expect some sort of coordinated response from the Western leaders that you're meeting?

PM: Obviously this matter is going to be one that will be high on the agenda of my discussions in France, the United Kingdom, the United States and Germany. Whether we get a coordinated response I think there has been, without any discussion between us, we've had a common sort of response of condemnation of what's happened. I would think that there would emerge a common sort of approach simply because we would be motivated by the same sorts of considerations.

JOURNALIST: ... Mr Buschmann eventually gets back to Sweden?

PM: We can only make the strong representations that have been made by the Government to the United States that we believe that the decision having been made here that he should return to Sweden, he ought to be able to do that.

JOURNALIST: Are you confident of a better response from the US Administration on their trade policies this time around?

PM: When you talk about their trade policies, in the broad area of trade policies, particularly within the -

JOURNALIST: The EEP.

PM: I'll come to that. Particularly within the Uruguay Round we have a very similar, in fact a common position as to what needs to be done. Now on the question of the EEP, this will be something that will be discussed. But I'm not going to allow the matter of the EEP to dominate the discussions because the relationship between the United States and Australia is one where we have very, very, very much more in common both in our bilateral and our regional and our global stance.

JOURNALIST: Your reaction to Mr Gorbachev's suggestion the Berlin Wall could go down and there could be reunification between East and West Germany.

PM: I would think that in the longer term everyone would hope that you could get a normalcy in the relationships between the two Germanys. As far as the Berlin Wall is concerned that of course has been an obscenity for a very long time. I think again it would be in everyone's interest that it should come down.

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