



PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW WITH BARBARA WALTERS, ABC GOOD MORNING AMERICA, WASHINGTON DC, 27 JUNE 1989.

Walters: Prime Minister Bob Hawke of Australia is in the United States for an official visit. Later today he meets with President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker. It's the first Bush/Hawke summit since Mr Bush was elected President and it's pretty certain that trade between the two countries will top the discussions. Right now the Prime Minister joins us from Washington.

Walters: Good Morning Mr Prime Minister. It's a sad fact that most Americans probably would not know unprompted, the name of the Prime Minister of Australia. Do most Australians know the name of the President of the United States?

PM: They sure do.

Walters: We are remiss. Most of what we know about Australia probably comes from Crocodile Dundee movies or commercials. Can you tell us, what should we know most about your wonderful country?

PM: I think you should know there's a country of 17 million down there in the South Pacific and probably the strongest ally that the United States has. We fought together in wars side by side and that in peace time we've formed an alliance in defence as the values that we share. The previous President said that this relationship was amongst the most important and that's a view that this President shares. So I guess those are the important sorts of things as well as the fact that we're able to knock you over pretty regularly at tennis and anything else you like to take us on at like sailing.

Walters: Oh I see well as I was not going to bring it up Mr Prime Minister, but we saw you play golf with President Bush, you were not great...(laughter).

PM: You didn't see me play golf. You saw a most unfair representation. My first shot after weeks on an aeroplane and sitting in rooms. Why didn't you show the second shot?

Walters: Because you shot into the fairway but it was the wrong one. (laughter) Well maybe we'll show the second one. On your agenda today I don't think you're going to be discussing golf Mr President. What is it? What are the biggest trade concerns.

PM: Well, we're a bit worried that the program you have here, your export enhancement program to protect your farmers is knocking the bejesus out of your own people here. It's costing

(PM Cont) about \$74 Billion a year, to your taxpayers and consumers. The 90 odd per cent are being taken for a ride in favour of a very small percentage and we're the ones that to some extent are getting hurt. But we're not going to allow that particular argument that we have to upset the firm understandings and points of agreement we have on just about every other issue. But that's a silly thing that's happening to American taxpayers and consumers. You are paying as I say the best part of a \$100 billion which increases your costs and your prices. That's stupid. We think it's stupid. The Europeans are doing the same. You're trying to beat them but in the process you're hurting yourself and the rest of the world.

Walters: Do you think you're going to get that changed?

PM: No. I have a great conviction in my own powers of persuasion that I shall be able to change the policy upside down in one day.

Walters: Mr Prime Minister you know how concerned we have been about what's been going on in China and I'm sure you have as well. And you have trade with China. What is your attitude towards the Chinese? How far are you going in condemnation or restrictions?

PM: I've had the opportunity already on Sunday of having long talks with George Bush about this. Our positions are I would say identical. What we are going to do Barbara is two things and it's very difficult to walk the line between. Firstly we have to unequivocally condemn the barbarism, brutality, the unacceptability of what they've done in Tianaman Square on the fourth, and persecution and execution of people since then. There's no question about that. Secondly in the interests of the people of China themselves as well as the region and of the world. We mustn't close off the relationship with China and turn them in on themselves, because that would be bad for the Chinese people. It will stifle the moves that will inevitably go on within that great country for further not only economic reform but for further political reform. If we close ourselves off. If we don't cooperate in an acceptable way then we will be going against the interests of the very people we want to help. Now that's a difficult line which political leaders have to walk. But to attempt to walk it we must.

Walters: I think it is very similar to the point of view of our President.

PM: I think we are at one.

Walters: Sir, you do have another problem, and that is that eight years from now Hong Kong goes back to the Chinese and are you concerned that you may have so many refugees from Hong Kong. Can you handle them, will you take them all.

PM: I like the assumption in your question that we've got to handle them.

Walters: Well, I've heard that a great many of them have already buying homes in Australia and ... are thinking of going there.

PM: Well sure, under our Immigration program Barbara we have a business migration element in which we welcome people from there and other areas. It's going to be, if you take the most pessimistic scenario, and there isn't a decent relationship between China and Hong Kong and the rest of the world at that time, then all the world and particularly Britain that has the relationship with Hong Kong has to be prepared to do something about accepting those people who want to leave.

Walters: We thank you for being with us. We hope that Americans will remember the name. I'm sure they all liked seeing you today, Prime Minister Bob Hawke of Australia. Thank you.