



PRIME MINISTER

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E & O E - PROOF ONLY

JOURNALIST: Prime Minister, can you tell us, what's your interest driftnet fishing and what can the Forum do about it?

PM: I think it really is a disaster for the region. Essentially what it is doing is taking a yield which is more than sustainable. In other words, if they keep taking a yield like this they'll eventually, and eventually not being a very long time, they'll wipe out the basic resource. For these, for so many of these small island states, this is virtually their only resource. Now the second part of your question, what can the Forum do about it? Well, I certainly intend to try and make it a major issue here and we will, I hope, adopt a resolution here which will be effective in regard to the activities of the Forum island states themselves, but I hope it will be a start then to trying to get universal action to ban this form of fishing which is, as I say, dangerous in terms of economics but also in environmental terms because it doesn't only take out fish.

JOURNALIST: specific prescription of what that resolution might be like?

PM: Well, no. I just don't land here and tell you before I talk to the people that I want to be talking with what's in the resolution. I've got some ideas about what it should contain, but I will be discussing this with the Forum leaders immediately tonight at the dinner.

JOURNALIST: How much pressure can the Forum bring on countries like Japan and Taiwan?

PM: Well, what is certain is that the Forum as a whole can do more than the individual countries can do, but I've had the opportunity of raising this matter in the last few weeks with the large powers that I've been talking with - France and Britain and Germany and the United States - and I got very positive reactions from them to this issue. So I think that from the Forum here we'll be able to start

an international push to get sense to prevail because there can be no sense in unregulated activities which have the nets 50 kilometres or more long just being dragged through the ocean taking everything in their paths and, as I say, wiping out in a relatively short time the basic resource of these countries as well as taking up into these nets birds, whales, all sorts of things as well as wiping out the fundamental resource. That is something that is not acceptable, I believe.

JOURNALIST: Are nations which sell their fishing rights, like Kiribati, on side?

PM: Well, we have had a recent meeting of Forum Fisheries Agency and my I've been reading in the plane coming out here, there is a fairly universal concern about this. There ought to be.

JOURNALIST: What are you going to discuss with Mr Lange at your talks?

PM: Well again, I think I'll do the discussion with him there rather than here if you don't mind.

JOURNALIST: Are you going to argue, try and convince him again not to institute the nuclear ships ban?

PM: he doesn't need to see me at breakfast tomorrow to know what I feel about that. I've told him ad nauseam. I don't think he'll be wasting time by me going over that. He knows what my position is on that.

JOURNALIST: He said here today that he will be talking to you about the New Zealand Anzac ship purchase. What are you going to say to him?

PM: What I've been saying before, that he ought to buy four of them.

JOURNALIST: Mr Hawke, constitutional progress has still been slow in Fiji. Do you think there will be some discussion here or will it be glossed over at the Forum?

PM: I don't think it will be a matter specifically on the Forum, there might be some corridor discussion about it.

JOURNALIST: What are the other important issues at this Forum?

PM: Well, I think there's the general economic issues, trade issues and environmental issues in general. You'll remember at the last Forum I made the offer which was accepted with a considerable degree of pleasure that we would finance the creation of monitoring stations in the

region here to look at what's happening to ocean levels and so on and I'll have something more specific and useful to say to them about that.

JOURNALIST: Have we now reached the point where we should have a more permanent home for the Forum, that small countries like Kiribati have been over-tested in hosting -

PM: Come on, you've just arrived. I'm sure by the time you finish here you'll be wanting to hold the next one here.

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