



PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF DOORSTOP, HYATT HOTEL, 8 AUGUST 1989

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JOURNALIST: Prime Minister, are you pleased to hear that Michael Lynagh has rejected an invitation to play rugby in South Africa?

PM: (inaudible) that they all make the decision that I believe is the right one and that includes Michael.

JOURNALIST: Prime Minister, it seems that the rugby tour might fall in a heap. Would you be happy if something like that happened?

PM: Well, it's not happiness in the sense of the rugby tour falling in a heap. My happiness is, if that happens, that further pressure has been put upon the regime in South Africa to bring it to the bargaining table. As I've said, there's no form of sanction which I get any pleasure out of as such. I don't want to see people hurt over there by sporting opportunities or trade sanctions being imposed just for the sake of doing that, but also it is as an instrument to make the regime of South Africa understand that it is not acceptable in the international community. Anything that's done to bring that realisation home to them is something that is worthwhile. What we hope is that they will come to the understanding that they're not acceptable in the international community while they adhere to this abhorrent regime of apartheid, I say come to the table and that we do get emerging in South Africa a country in which people are accepted irrespective of the basis of the colour of their skin. When you have a multi-racial society like that there would be no-one who'd be doing more than I would be doing and this Government would be doing to try and see that all the people of South Africa have the opportunity of being fully integrated into the world community. To the extent that decisions are being made now by sportsmen which are part of that thrust, I welcome it.

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