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PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF JOINT NEWS CONFERENCE WITH PREMIER JOHN CAIN, NATIONAL TENNIS CENTRE, MELBOURNE - 28 JANUARY 1990
E & OE - PROOF ONLY

PM: I am very pleased to be able to be here with the Premier of Victoria, my friend John Cain, to announce that the Federal Government has made the decision to allocate \$125 million should Melbourne be successful in its bid for the 1996 Olympics. We will make this money available, it will be indexed according to the CPI, so that we will then be joining with the Victorian Government to create a world standard sporting complex at Albert Park which will cater for many sports, including basketball, volleyball, table tennis, swimming, diving, synchronised swimming. It will be a world standard complex which will not only provide facilities for the Olympic Games, but of course will be of on-going benefit not only to the people of Victoria but Australia. It will be available for further international sporting events as well as for the people of Victoria on a continuing basis. I'm satisfied from my conversations with Mr Samaranch that Melbourne's in with a very very good chance John. I have conveyed to Mr Samaranch that the Australian Government is fully behind this bid. It has the total support of the Government and the people of Australia. I think Melbourne deserves to win.

CAIN: I want to support and thank the Prime Minister for the generous offer that has been made. I welcome it. The Prime Minister himself and his Government have been very strong supporters of Melbourne's bid all the way through and I think it's properly been characterised as Australia's bid, not just Melbourne. That's one of our strengths I believe. For the Federal Government to be prepared to commit \$125 million, dedicated to that new stadium at Albert Park is welcome news indeed. That will be a first class centre, replacing a very tired and worn out place down there where currently there is a wide range of sports played. And it will be identified with the Commonwealth's contribution. The Commonwealth I believe has - when I look at the results in New Zealand the Institute of Sport is I think starting to give us the kind of results we've been looking for. Another Commonwealth initiative and supported by this Government so well. So we're delighted. Thank you very much Prime Minister.

PM: Pleasure.

CAIN: I believe that we are in - we're in the six as you all know - but I believe with a first class chance. This assurance of support from the national Government I believe further enhances our very good prospects.

JOURNALIST: Mr Cain, were you surprised that Mr Samaranch endorsed Melbourne so strongly ...?

CAIN: Well those who are around the Olympic movement have expressed to me their surprise. They know the way these things are played better than I do. I'm delighted of course, as we all are, with the very strong words that he spoke. He's been here just a short while. Yes it's good news indeed.

JOURNALIST: Mr Cain, if we don't get the Olympics what then happens about the Albert Park ...?

CAIN: Albert Park has been on the list for some three and a half years. But as I said, those present buildings and facilities are tired and worn out. They go back to the immediate post-war days. There have been a number of proposals put for revamping Albert Park. It will take place. Not as quickly and not with the same resources as would be the case if we are successful. But Albert Park has to be done at some time but it would not embrace the stadium of the kind - 15,000 at basketball, I think 10,000 at the swimming ... contemplation. It would not be as large as that but certainly it has to be done and we have to provide a first class swimming facility at some stage.

JOURNALIST: Mr Hawke, ... facing an election in a couple of months it doesn't hurt to announce \$125 million worth of spending in Melbourne and Victoria, does it?

PM: I guess it doesn't but it was obviously not done for that reason. You're loading the cynicism on a bit. It is the fact that Mr Samaranch is here. The eyes of the world are focussed on Australia now and the sooner that Mr Samaranch and the Olympic Committee are able to know that the full financial support of the Commonwealth Government, together with the State Government and the Melbourne City Council is focussed on this bid the better. It would've been a bit silly to be leaving it till September wouldn't it?

JOURNALIST: Prime Minister, when are you going to announce an election date?

PM: Not today Josephine.

JOURNALIST: I just thought you might tell me.

PM: Not even for you mate.

JOURNALIST: Mr Hawke, your comments about today's Sunday Herald poll, ... rise in the popularity of Mr Howard ... Mr Peacock?

PM: Well, they're just - they were hurdy gurdy ... Mr Peacock's turn in the leadership for this six months ... and now the question is will it be Mr Howard before or after the election? I mean they're just in and out, in and out, one after the other. And the poll was fascinating. When Mr Howard is in he is desperately unpopular and Mr Peacock becomes popular. Shove Mr Peacock ... reverse, he becomes unpopular and Howard by comparison starts to look good. I mean all it shows is the absolute dearth of talent they've got. They just swap one for the other and when the one that's in is down and the one that's out is up -

JOURNALIST: Mr Hawke, we must all be very pleased with the results of Australia in New Zealand at the moment, but what support can the Federal Government offer the athletes who come back from those Games? We had the ... in the Olympic Games where they came back and all those athletes were out of work, couldn't find jobs. What sort of support -

PM: Don't you read the newspapers and see the Budget decisions?

JOURNALIST: But I mean what sort of -

PM: Why? I mean you're making comparisons between now and after the last Olympics. I mean what I suggest is that you catch up with the decisions that have been taken, made now probably a year ago I think. Decisions that have been taken that address that issue.

JOURNALIST: Mr Hawke, back on elections. Do you think that the Opposition's bungling of the health policy has helped you ...?

PM: Well obviously it must be a plus. Not just the bungling but we have now out of the mouths of the Opposition spokesman himself, Mr Shack, the statement that they are no good on health. He said we have got a bad record. Now we've been saying that and we've been right. But when they say it themselves, there it is. He said we've got a bad track record. And they're no better. If anything, they're getting worse. They're now saying we've had seven years in Opposition and we can't produce a policy. We've told you lies, because you know chapter and verse where they've got up and said the details are completed, the costings are made, all we've got to do is announce it. Now they've been deceptive, they've been incompetent and they are irrelevant to the needs of Australia. For this mob to be getting up and to be talking about they are concerned for the families of Australia and they can't provide a health policy, is a devastating indictment of them.

JOURNALIST: Do you think Mr Peacock has abandoned Mr Shack?

PM: I'd say Mr Shack seems to have abandoned Mr Peacock. I mean that's what Opposition policy is about in this place. They're all the time abandoning one another.

JOURNALIST: Prime Minister, can I ask a sporting question?

PM: It's been open to you if you wanted to before. I don't -

JOURNALIST: As a betting man who's going to win the final today?

PM: My money would be on Mr Lendl.

JOURNALIST: Why?

PM: Because of my feeling that he's going to win, which is based upon the fact he's been here for a long time, he's had a rather longer in-house preparation if I can put it that way. But it wouldn't surprise me if it went the other way. Being a betting man I wouldn't bet a lot of money on it but if I had to bet it would be on Mr Lendl.

JOURNALIST: At a time when Australia ... present its best face in terms of its ability to organise major international sporting events, are you concerned, considering recent shambles ... involving the motor cycle grand prix which overseas ... quite ridiculous.

PM: Does it? I haven't had a lot of reports coming back from overseas that the overseas people feel that it looks ridiculous. I mean I haven't had that being reported to me. But I -

JOURNALIST: ... consider ... try and sort it out?

PM: No, this is a matter that is not within my jurisdiction. We've got enough which is constitutionally within my jurisdiction where I do have to make decisions without capriciously and gratuitously intervening where it's not my role.

JOURNALIST: ... some discussions ... about the participation of South African players at the Open tennis here, with a view towards the Olympics. Can you give us your views on that, whether or not ...?

PM: The position is quite simple as far as the Commonwealth of Australia and the Commonwealth of Nations is concerned. We have the Gleneagles agreement and under that agreement which we adhere to and implement, people who are representing South Africa are not encouraged but are allowed to participate. Where they're not representing their country then they can be there. I think that what we should be saying about South Africa at the moment is what the Commonwealth Heads

of Government said in Kuala Lumpur last year, and that is that we should positively welcome the signs that are to some extent evident in South Africa that there may be some move towards change. But this is not the time, precisely not the time to ease up the pressures that the world have upon South Africa because we want to see a position as soon as possible in South Africa where it moves to an end to the abhorrent system of apartheid and to a democratic multi-racial society. It is quite clear because it has come out of the mouths of the South Africans themselves that the sporting and economic sanctions that have been applied to South Africa have played a part in the changes that are beginning to appear.

JOURNALIST: Mr Cain, with regard to the Albert Park complex, there are no provisions for a velodrome. Would Mr Hawke be prepared to go another \$10 million to pop in a velodrome for the bike riders?

CAIN: The velodrome used to be part of the Showground's complex and is a separate facility from the facility at Albert Park. The velodrome is taken care of. You understand that there's about \$480 million that we can best calculate that will be spent of capital funds by us on all the facilities. The \$125 million from the Commonwealth is a substantial contribution to that. The velodrome is in the 480. The exact cost of that I can't tell you. I can find out for you. The velodrome is separate and quite distinct from Albert Park.

JOURNALIST: How much do you stand to gain financially from ...?

CAIN: Well the best advice we can get is that with all the economic activity that comes from the Games, the jobs that are created, \$7.8 billion in 1989 dollars was the figure we were given. In terms of goodwill already as being a candidate city it's enormous I believe. Just being, having a world stage presence as a candidate city, staging the Games I think it brings enormous spin-offs that can't be quantified. We're flat out to get it.

JOURNALIST: We have 70% of the facilities needed to hold the Olympics. You don't think we'll be over-complexed?

CAIN: No I don't. We wouldn't have gone into this unless we were satisfied -

PM: inaudible

CAIN: That's the strength we have I believe. It's demonstrable that the facilities that are already in existence and will be improved and those that will be provided will be used in the future. If you look at the details of the release you will see that there's an Olympic mode so far as the Albert Park is concerned. There's an ongoing mode where the public use is considerable. Just like

this place. As the book on this place says, you and I and everybody else can have a game of tennis here for all but two weeks of the year. That'll be the same with those facilities.

JOURNALIST: ... any further requests to the Federal Government for money?

CAIN: There's constant requests. We take them as they come in their order, don't we Prime Minister?

PM: Let me just make this point about the Commonwealth participation. We're not only providing \$125 million but with a range of Commonwealth services that will be provided in the quarantine area and protective areas. An estimate of that is probably worth about another \$100 million. So we're in there boots and all.

CAIN: Probably there in ... I can assure you.

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