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## PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF NEWS CONFERENCE, AUCKLAND GOLF CLUB, 3 FEBRUARY 1990

E & O E - PROOF ONLY

JOURNALIST: How was the golf game this morning, how did it go?

PALMER: It was a very nice day, lovely weather, honour was totally satisfied trans-Tasman. The Prime Minister of Australia and the Prime Minister of New Zealand are all square after 18.

HAWKE: So the series remains two/one.

PALMER: Yes. It will have to be resumed at a later date.

HAWKE: I had to par my last two to catch him though.

JOURNALIST: You started off well though.

HAWKE: Yes, started off well - I was three up on him going into the start of the second, then he had a real recovery, got two up on me and I had to win the last two.

JOURNALIST: How did you find the course this morning, Mr Hawke?

HAWKE: Very pretty course. Yes, very pretty course. The ... temporary greens, the two temporary greens ... but is is a very, very attractive course. I enjoyed the game very much indeed.

JOURNALIST: Can you say what you each went round in?

HAWKE: Very respectable.

PALMER: Yes, very respectable.

HAWKE: When you are playing match play you don't have to count every one.

JOURNALIST: Prime Minister, were you aware that Australian pilots apparently followed you across the Tasman?

HAWKE: What a joke.

JOURNALIST: Did you see their greeting this morning?

HAWKE: I mean, they are a joke. I mean, who takes them seriously?

JOURNALIST: The events in South Africa - cause for encouragement?

HAWKE: Yes indeed. Geoffrey and I have had the opportunity of having a talk about it and let me say unequivocally that I welcome the measures that have been announced by President de Klerk and I believe they substantially meet the conditions of the Harare Declaration which means now that the stage can be set for negotiations between the Government of South Africa and the representatives of the non-white population. And I trust that this will mean now that serious negotiations will commence with a view to the abolition of apartheid and the creation of a democratic multi-racial society in South Africa. That means that the Commonwealth will have to look now very closely at what follows in South Africa. There is no doubt that the actions of the Commonwealth, supplemented as they have been by other nations in imposing pressure, and a considerable pressure upon South Africa, has been responsible for this move. There is no doubt about that at all.

JOURNALIST: Is now the time to ease that pressure?

HAWKE: Now is the time, I believe, to signal our preparedness to ease if the next steps are taken. It would be churlish in the extreme if we weren't to acknowledge the significance of what's been done. I certainly acknowledge that significance and I believe the leaders of the Commonwealth will now be ready to start considering the easing of pressure if the next steps are taken and the indications are, I believe, that they will be.

JOURNALIST: Sonny Ramphal was urging caution and not getting too over-optimistic about it. Is that a view you share?

HAWKE: I think, I think cautious optimism is the way I'd put it. I mean, one's got to recognise that the pillars of apartheid haven't been touched and that the state of emergency hasn't been removed. So we welcome what has been done. It is significant, but there is much still to be done. I acknowledge that President de Klerk probably has to consider his own flanks to some extent and there is, I believe now, a stage set for negotiations. Up until now that hasn't been possible and that's an important development.

JOURNALIST: When you talk about easing of pressures, do you mean sporting links as well as air links?

HAWKE: I mean that the time will come now soon when the Commonwealth should be in a position to look at all its measures, but not to say simply because of what has happened that those measures can be lifted. But certainly we should be honest enough to say that significant change has taken place and that has been acknowledged by, for instance, Alan Boesak and Archbishop Tutu and other spokespersons. So the logical, intelligent thing is to acknowledge that as a Commonwealth, say - now we are in a position to be prepared to look at the easing and to signal to South Africa that we are prepared to now look at that if they are moving further. They've set the stage and if the negotiations now take place on that stage that has been set, then it would be appropriate to start easing pressure.

JOURNALIST: Mr Hawke, Laurie Oakes ran with a story last night on Nine news that the election would be on April 7. Can you confirm that?

HAWKE: I must thank Laurie for that. He hasn't been in touch with me to tell me. Thanks, thanks very much, Laurie.

JOURNALIST: Is that the truth?

HAWKE: Do you think that's the way I'd announce it?

JOURNALIST: How are you feeling, a campaign looming? Ready for it?

PM: Yes, I feel very fit and healthy and well.

JOURNALIST: Do you think Andrew might have gone, run his race too early? You know, he was out on the hustings earlier and had a few gaffes?

HAWKE: Well, you'd hardly say that the last two or three weeks have covered the Liberal Party with glory, so it doesn't seem to have been terribly effective, but you know, that's their business.

JOURNALIST: What lessons could the Melbourne organisers of the hope for Olympic Games there learn from the way the New Zealanders have organised this Commonwealth Games?

HAWKE: I don't know the specifics, Denis, that they would want to pick up. I'm sure they'll talk with them, but one of the things that's impressed me, as no doubt you, is the - if I can put it this way - the lack of fussiness. I mean, they just seem to have gone about it in a very straightforward sort of way. I think it was probably typified by the opening ceremony. It didn't have the massive expenditure, for instance, that was obviously involved, for example, in

Los Angeles and Seoul. But there was a character about it which I think impressed everybody and those are the sorts of things that I think we can learn from New Zealand.

JOURNALIST: What's your thoughts on Australia's performance?

HAWKE: Tremendous. I'm very proud of them and I had the opportunity yesterday, as you know, of meeting with them, a lot of them in the Village and I just want to say this to my fellow Australians - there was a lot of talk there before the Games started about behaviour. Let me say to you, as Prime Minister of this country, if you'd had the opportunity, as I had, of being with them there, seeing these kids - particularly the young ones - they are tremendous.

They are magnificent ambassadors for Australia on and off the field. They've done our country proud and I want to say, Geoffrey, how much I've appreciated the reception that the New Zealanders have given the Australians. It's been great and I think in a number of contests the Aussies and New Zealanders seem to have, sort of, cosied up together against some of our competitors.

JOURNALIST: (inaudible)

HAWKE: Beg your pardon?

JOURNALIST: On the topic of behaviour, Senator Amanda Vanstone had a bit of a go at you concerning your description of Andrew Lloyd yesterday as a no bullshit fellow ... unparliamentary language -

HAWKE: I wasn't in parliament.

JOURNALIST: Mr Hawke, you must be pleased that the tramways dispute seems to have been sorted out in Victoria?

HAWKE: Yes, you're right. It hasn't been good for the people of Melbourne, hasn't been good for the Government of Victoria and, I suppose, in a sense, you know, it hasn't been good for us. So I'm certainly glad it's over, yes.

JOURNALIST: What do you see as ... Thomastown by-election for your Government. Is there any implications at all for the Federal Government?

HAWKE: No, no ... There'll be some swing, but there's no significance for us.

JOURNALIST: What about for Andrew, if he doesn't make, it you don't see any significance for him?

HAWKE: No, I think he's got his own problems actually in the Federal sphere. I don't think the by-election there is important for him or for me.

JOURNALIST: It's been described as his Flinders.

HAWKE: I think that's a bit tough, I think that's a bit tough. I mean, I think the things that are concerning the Federal Party and their worries about the Federal Liberal leadership are self contained, as it were. They are federal in the implications. I don't think what happens in Thomastown will really add to or subtract from their worries.

JOURNALIST: Mr Palmer, your views about South Africa, the developments there?

PALMER: Well, it's clear that this is a positive development, but it's not the end of apartheid. It's only the beginning of the end of apartheid. The pressure's got to be kept up to ensure that apartheid is dismantled. But you've got to welcome this development, it's a very positive development.

JOURNALIST: Mr Palmer, what did you think of the plane flying over? Were you embarrassed about that?

PALMER: I thought it was an exercise in bad taste.

HAWKE: And futility.

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