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## PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF DOORSTOP, PALATAS RECEPTION CENTRE,  
MELBOURNE, 23 FEBRUARY 1990

R & O R - PROOF ONLY

PM: Ladies and gentlemen, this is not a press conference, it's not for questions. But I want to take this opportunity of immediately clarifying the misrepresentation which has occurred in regard to the NCA situation. You will recall yesterday when I spoke about this matter, my remarks were directed to protecting the integrity of Lionel Bowen. Just let me refer quickly to what I had to say. I must say that I am terribly annoyed at the implication against the integrity of one of the finest men in Australian politics and I refer of course to Lionel Bowen. And I indicated then that in terms of protecting the slur on the integrity of Lionel Bowen that I would make arrangements with Lionel Bowen that Mr Peacock would be able to talk to Mr Bowen and see the documents on the basis of Mr Bowen's actions. And of course, what Mr Peacock is now suggesting is that he should have access to all the NCA documents. Now Mr Bowen himself, as Attorney-General, does not have access to all those documents. All that I, of course, was referring to is the fact that if there was a communication from the NCA to Mr Bowen asking for a reference and then a decision by Mr Bowen that those documents should be available to Mr Peacock so that he could see that Lionel Bowen had acted according to the proper processes in this matter. Of course, no suggestion that Mr Peacock could have access to NCA documents but the Attorney-General himself doesn't have access to. So I hope that clears the matter once and for all. Thank you.

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