



## PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF NEWS CONFERENCE, USP CENTRE, VANUATU  
1 AUGUST 1990

E & OE - PROOF ONLY

JOURNALIST: Is there agreement on JACADS?

PM: No, that hasn't been decided yet. They're still considering the various positions and we'll come back to that after lunch.

JOURNALIST: ... been any formal discussion on JACADS Mr Hawke?

PM: There's been formal discussion. It's been discussed in the Forum. But there are differences of emphasis. They're trying to get some resolution together which may bring the different points of view together. That's going to be resumed -

JOURNALIST: What is the sticking point in ...?

PM: No specific sticking point. There's just a difference of approach on the issue. Now there's discussions going on over lunch and that will be resumed after lunch. I mean, that's the way -

JOURNALIST: Did you forward the reports?

PM: Yes, they were given the full reports, full reports.

JOURNALIST: What was the response to those?

PM: Well they haven't specifically, you know, addressed the reports in the comments that have been made.

JOURNALIST: Have you put forward the suggestion of sending over the scientific mission?

PM: Yes, I suggested that would be a good idea.

JOURNALIST: What response did you get?

PM: I don't know how many - I mean this is getting boring. I'm telling you that the matter is not resolved. There have been initial discussions. There are now informal meetings going on over lunch. We'll resume it

after lunch. I mean so don't let's go back over it four times.

JOURNALIST: To change the subject then - Ratu Mara. Will you be seeing him today over lunch or after lunch?

PM: No he won't be at lunch. I may be seeing him after lunch. I don't know yet.

JOURNALIST: Is the fact that he's not going to come to the lunch any form of snubbing?

PM: I don't know. He didn't come to the New Zealand lunch and he's not going to be at our lunch. So I may see him afterwards. I really haven't got anything to add to that.

JOURNALIST: How would you describe that sort of behaviour?

PM: I've got no comment about it.

JOURNALIST: Prime Minister, has the issue of observer status for the FLNKS come up?

PM: Yes, just before lunch and that's another matter that will be dealt with after lunch. So you're not doing too well are you?

JOURNALIST: What can you tell us?

PM: Well I can tell you that the timing of the press conference is inopportune. It would be much better to have it after lunch.

JOURNALIST: Can we have it after lunch?

PM: Yes of course you can have one after -

JOURNALIST: ... back to Ratu Mara then. Are you regretful at this stage at all about the comments the Australian Government has made on the Fijian constitution? Did we go in too hard?

PM: No, I think the comments that were made by spokespersons for the Foreign Affairs Department were comments that in the light of Australia's historical position were justified. There's more to be said. I hope I'll have the opportunity of discussing this with the Prime Minister of Fiji. That's up to him.

JOURNALIST: Are you disappointed that he's not coming to your lunch today?

PM: I'd rather he was there, yes.

ends