



2

## PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF COMMENTS ON DEPARTURE FOR PAPUA NEW GUINEA,  
RAAF BASE FAIRBAIRN, 2 SEPTEMBER 1990

E & O E - PROOF ONLY

JOURNALIST: Mr Hawke, what's your reaction to the ...  
allowed to leave Iraq?

PM: I'm thrilled and I hope that before long all the  
women and children at least will be able to be evacuated.

JOURNALIST: ... Papua New Guinea. Are you worried  
about the security?

PM: I have confidence in the arrangements that are made  
in these things. I never give it a second thought. I  
don't tend to convey some recklessness about that. But  
if you allowed yourself to worry about these things you  
wouldn't do your job.

JOURNALIST: inaudible

PM: ... I saw the ... Well I understand the ... It's  
not an area that we talk about in these security matters.

JOURNALIST: inaudible

PM: Well it's a reaction of this ... dictated to almost  
universal condemnation of the holding of hostages. I'm  
glad that the women and children are going to be  
released, so should the men because to hold anyone as  
human shields in that sort of situation as, as I've said  
before, contrary to all norms of civilised behaviour.

JOURNALIST: inaudible

PM: I can't answer that but there is no reason to  
believe on the behaviour of the Iraq leadership up until  
now that we can have a lot of confidence on that score.

JOURNALIST: inaudible

PM: That particular source has a tendency to want to  
paint these things in the light they want to see it.  
Everything that I've said about this has been accurate.

JOURNALIST: inaudible

PM: There is nothing new about that. What Rabbie was saying is what we've agreed and which has publicly been stated before; that it's in the interests of both countries gradually to ... down the aid relationship so that the time will come when Papua New Guinea is going to be able to be totally reliant on its own resources. It's been appropriate in these early years of independence that Australia should give this substantial assistance. It's something that we've been glad to do and it's something for which they have been thankful. But we both understand that the purpose of this aid should be to build up to a situation where they are able totally to stand on their resources.

JOURNALIST: inaudible

PM: I don't know whether it will dominate but obviously the question of internal law and order in the capacity of Papua New Guinea to handle those things will be one of the items that we'll discuss.

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