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PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF COMMENTS ON DEPARTURE FOR JAPAN, RAAF BASE
FAIRBAIRN - 16 SEPTEMBER 1990

E & OE - PROOF ONLY

JOURNALIST: ... held up out there by some green protesters?

PM: No, I wasn't held up by anyone. Does it look like it?

JOURNALIST: What do you think of their comments that perhaps -

PM: I don't know what their comments were.

JOURNALIST: The bookies say that Melbourne's only got a 10/1 chance. What's your view?

PM: I backed a 66/1 winner the other week.

JOURNALIST: Mrs Kelly's being interviewed this morning so perhaps what the protesters are saying is slightly relevant, that they're wondering whether or not the Government caved in because of the pressure from the loggers on Friday. What do you think of that?

PM: I think that's nonsense.

JOURNALIST: Are you happy with Mrs Kelly's performance over the whole issue?

PM: Yes.

JOURNALIST: Prime Minister, one of the things that has been said is that the trees in Japan are now better protected than ours as a result of Cabinet's decision.

PM: What am I supposed to do about that, burst out into laughter?

JOURNALIST: What's the main message you'll be taking to the Olympic people you'll be meeting in Tokyo?

PM: That Melbourne's got the best bid. We're best in terms of facilities, centrality, security, environment and total commitment of the Australian population. We've got the lot.

JOURNALIST: Feeling confident?

PM: It would be silly to say I feel confident. I am confident we've got the best bid. There will be some sentiment for Athens I believe but if the bids are considered totally on their intrinsic merits, Melbourne should win.

JOURNALIST: All the best Prime Minister.

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