



PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF JOINT NEWS CONFERENCE WITH MELBOURNE
OLYMPIC CANDIDATURE TEAM MEMBERS, NEW TAKANAWA PRINCE
HOTEL, TOKYO - 18 SEPTEMBER 1990

E & OE - PROOF ONLY

Video presentation

RALPH: That was the video which we used to introduce our presentation. We had more than two stars. We had two particular stars who did a great job for us today. The two girls in their gold blazers, Cathy Freeman and Michelle Ford. The other three speakers were the Prime Minister - and I'll say something about him in a moment - and Kevan Gosper and myself. Among the members we have here with us at the table, the Lord Mayor Richard Wynne, Prime Minister, the Premier Joan Kirner, Lord Mayor of Brisbane Sally-Ann Atkinson, John Landy and Max Roger who did a great job in answering the only question we got. The Prime Minister was the star in terms of the presentation he made and in the direct communication just before the presentation itself with Melbourne. I'm going to ask the Prime Minister now to just briefly outline some of things he said and the messages that we received of Melbourne.

PM: I was able to say to the members of the Committee that no city was better equipped to stage the Games than Melbourne and that no bid would have the greatest support and degree of support that we had, not only in Melbourne but the nation as a whole. I pointed out that at all levels of government and across all parties there was a unanimity of support. I referred with pleasure to the fact that my political opponent, but on this issue my ally, John Hewson, was there as was at the State level Alan Brown with the Premier of Victoria, Joan Kirner. And in those circumstances we were able to present a picture of total unanimity. The financial guarantees had come from the State Government and they were backed by us. I was particularly able to make the point which I think was unique for Australia when I said that I believe that Australia was the living embodiment of the Olympic ideal in that this nation, Australia, had thrown open its doors to the people from 140 nations around the world without discrimination in terms of colour, creed or race. And that each day we were the living embodiment of the Olympic ideal in that we had the people of all these different nations, creeds and colours, living and

co-operating peacefully together. And that that gave us the basis upon which we were able to make the promise to the International Olympic Committee that if they entrusted us with the honour and the responsibility of conducting a Centenary Games that we would deliver an Olympic Games that would never be forgotten. We were assisted in that message, as I say, by being able to refer to the fact that there in Melbourne at this time were gathered thousands of our fellow Melbournians there in the National Tennis Centre expressing their support. May I just say, as I said out there a while ago, I've had many moments of pride as Prime Minister of this country but I don't think there's ever been anything which has quite matched the pride, John, which I felt in you and all the team, which did not only Melbourne, but you did Australia proud. Have a look at the video now, from Melbourne, which came directly by satellite just before.

Video presentation

RALPH: The Prime Minister just said to me the best is still to come and you'll see that at the end. That was filmed just a little while ago before we went in to make the presentation. The people probably are finding their way home now from the Tennis Centre in Melbourne. Mr Hawke was in the garden just outside the hotel here filming that and then the whole thing was sent by satellite. So we were able to demonstrate just the standard of the media presentation and what can be done in Melbourne. I think it was an excellent performance. Now I'd like to invite the Premier, if she would like to comment on the presentation.

KIRNER: Thank you John. May I start off by saying congratulations to the team and particularly to you John from Victorians. It was a great effort. Fantastic performance. You haven't seen all of it yet but the spirit of the people of Melbourne in that fantastic Tennis Centre actually permeated the whole of the room where we made our presentation. That centre is an example of the many excellent facilities in Melbourne that John and the Prime Minister said were ready and waiting to stage the 1996 Olympic Games. Those facilities are a tribute to people like our former Premier John Cain. Thank you John. People like him and our commissioners and their partners who've done so much to make this bid a great success. I think the hallmark of our bid was that it has really drawn active participation from the whole community - our athletes, our unions, business, the Opposition, three tiers of government and millions of people across the country, and our schoolchildren. Weren't they terrific in the program. All working together. All committed to a victory for Melbourne. And you know, I think it might just be possible. That sort of co-operation, that sort of commitment has been here this week in Tokyo and in the months leading up to it. If that sense of purpose and teamwork which I'm proud to have been part of, which I

believe will enable us to stage a great Olympic Games. As Kevan Gosper said in a magnificent speech to the gathering, we are ready and we are waiting. This week has been tremendously exciting. The presentation was exciting. Cathy and Michelle had the spirit of Australia just oozing out of them. When Cathy forgot her lines she said 'And I want my mum and dad come and see me run'. Wonderful.

FREEMAN: And they will.

KIRNER: And they will. In Melbourne. In 1996. It created a great spirit that I believe will carry our state and our country forward. This is a great day for Victoria and for Melbourne and for Australia. Thank you team.

RALPH: I now invite the Lord Mayor Richard Wynne to say a few words.

WYNNE: Thank you very much John. It's a fantastic day for me to be Lord Mayor of Melbourne and I'm so proud that it was our city, that fine city of Melbourne, which initiated this bid for the 1996 Olympic Games. I'd particularly like to single out my two predecessors as Lord Mayor, Councillor Winsome McCaughey and Councillor Bill Deveney who are here tonight, who have worked so tirelessly on behalf of the city for our bid. Over the last 20 months Melbourne has gained the confidence to project itself as a truly international city. We're a city of style, we're a city that has competed superbly and our bid today I think has been absolutely first class. And it's because I believe that many IOC members have felt a great affection and some have great confidence in Melbourne, its people and its potential as a great city to host the 1996 Olympic Games. Our city has grown with this bid and has gained great impetus to improve itself over the coming years. I also believe we can look forward tonight with great expectations. To our colleagues and friends at the Town Hall and to the thousands who are gathering tonight in our city square, thank you, thank you sincerely for carrying the torch for Melbourne. The support of those wonderful people of Melbourne has been absolutely fantastic and without that the strength, and that has truly been the strength, of our bid. But it's been fantastic. Thank you very much.

RALPH: Michelle would you like to just tell them what you told the people inside, but in English this time.

FORD: Would you like it in English this time. Firstly I'd like to say that I was very proud to be selected on this team and to represent Australia, and not only Australia but all my colleague athletes who have done just as well as I have. I really feel an honour. I also tried to tell the IOC members, if they could understand my French, that the Games is for the athletes and it's the athletes spirit and the emotion of the athletes that

carry the Games and the spirit of the Games and the feeling of the Games. This is what gives you a great Games. I believe, as do we all here, and I'm sure we will show it to you, that Melbourne will show you this great Games.

RALPH: Now Cathy, you can just tell them how much you're looking forward to competing, not only in Barcelona but also in Melbourne.

FREEMAN: Well as far as I'm concerned, I think I'm happy as long as I'm at the Olympics. But it will be extremely special to have it in Australia, in Melbourne. I've learnt so much. I've learnt so much. It's incredible. I'm proud. I'm so honoured to be here. I've learnt so much in the way that we've all been working as a team and we've become closer friends. We've stuck in there and really grown close together. I think that's the important thing. I don't care. I think Melbourne's won. I don't care.

RALPH: Just before inviting questions, there are two points I'd just like to make. Firstly as has already been mentioned, Kevan Gosper made a direct appeal in a very effective and very nice way to his colleagues on the IOC that half the world should not be living in shadow and it was time to come to the Southern Hemisphere. He did quite a remarkable job. The Prime Minister made, as you would expect, an excellent address and carried, set the tone for that video that you've already seen. Also I should refer to our two musicians who were a star act ... We'll take questions and then we'll show you just that last clip that brought the whole thing to a climax, which runs for about three minutes. Questions please, and I'll share them with my colleagues.

JOURNALIST: What sort of response did you get when you were in there? Did you feel that there was the sort of warmth that you were giving to them?

RALPH: I think the response inside from where we were sitting, it was just fantastic. I think you could feel that the whole mood was becoming more positive as the presentation went along. I felt that it was very good. We had a lot of people come up to us after to tell us that they thought it was an excellent presentation.

JOURNALIST: Did the IOC ask you any questions about your bid and can you tell us what things they wanted to know more about?

RALPH: We only had one question and that was in two parts I guess, from one questioner. That was to help his colleagues who hadn't been there because he had what were the arrangements in relation to accommodation and the charges that were involved. We explained our support package where for the first one hundred members of any team for US\$350 they will be provided with travel and

accommodation. The second was to ask for a bit more detail on the other venues and Max Roger gave a rundown on those to be built and on the ones that are already in existence. That was the only question we had.

JOURNALIST: You sound very confident. I mean do you think you've swayed any votes in there?

RALPH: I don't think we went backwards.

JOURNALIST: I wonder if you can explain if there's any significance in the presentation in the salutation to our Olympians for the absence of Dawn Fraser, our greatest Olympian? And can you reassure us that her absence had nothing to do with the pending of sensibilities of the IOC.

ROGER: I can do that. Dawn Fraser was to be involved. In fact, she was one of the first to be involved and one of the first to accept but unfortunately at the last minutes some other commitments intervened. She couldn't get to rehearsals and so she thought rather than run any risk of a less than top performance she'd better not do it. But she was very strongly with us in spirit.

JOURNALIST: Your bid like a few others has been based to some extent, if not a great extent, on emotional factors. We are in a technological age. How important do you think it is, or does the Melbourne Committee think it is, that the decision should be more on technical aspects of a city's capacity to stage an effective Games than on reasonable but emotional issues?

RALPH: David I think that what we have done in the bid document was to lay that out in great detail. I think that it's probably fair to say that we went to much greater level of detail in all of the work that we did in preparing our bid. Our planning is well advanced to the extent that we have gone past just conceptual design of facilities that have to be built into detailed drawings in order to be able to come up with a budget in which we could have complete confidence. We've had the opportunity of showing nearly 70 of the members who are in that room the facilities. They've been to Melbourne, they've seen them, they've had it explained to them, they've asked questions, so that they've got, those people who have been to Melbourne, have received all of that detail previously. Those that haven't been have been visited by our commissioners on at least two occasions each and they've had the opportunity to ask questions, they've had all the detail explained to them. I don't think that before that we went into that room there was very much need to explain the facts except we wanted to cover those and that was drawn up out of those shots in the early part of the video. I believe that our bid was already, we had already, been given quite a lot of commendation on the standard of the bid itself. We had given all of that technical detail. The second

volume of the bid document has it laid out and every member has a copy of that. This presentation we didn't believe that we had to repeat that but we did in the speeches which you haven't heard, we gave quite a few facts in terms of our planning for security, our financial planning, about the state of the art in communications ... We gave a number of facts because we haven't repeated the speeches here. You've only seen the video section.

ROGERS: Because some of Australia's venues are not necessarily as well known we had brought 20 plus of the sports federations to Australia in the past 18 months. We have worked very closely with them and once again here and I believe we had a completely clean bill of health in respect of each of the international sports federations.

RALPH: Thank you Max. Now what we will do is we will show you the final video in which we wound up our presentation.

Video presentation

ATKINSON: Can I have a microphone. Just before we all go. I'm speaking, I guess, on behalf of the rest of Australia. The cities like Brisbane and Sydney and Adelaide and Perth who all backed Melbourne and I just want you to know, John, Prime Minister, Cathy of course who comes from Queensland, and everybody else who was part of the team, that I felt very proud to be part of Australia. And I know back home everybody else is going to think Melbourne is fantastic and we are all looking forward to going to the Games there in '96.

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