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## PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF DOORSTOP, IMPERIAL HOTEL, TOKYO  
18 SEPTEMBER 1990

E & OE - PROOF ONLY

JOURNALIST: Mr Hawke, what's your final message to the delegates you are going to meet this morning?

PM: That Melbourne is the best equipped city to stage the Centenary Games because of the excellence and preparedness of its facilities; its infrastructure; the dedication and the sports fanaticism of the people of Melbourne and of Australia; the security of Australia; the environment of Australia. All these things plus the fact that it will mean that if Melbourne gets the 1996 Games that will be only the second time in the centenary of the modern games that they've been held in the southern hemisphere.

JOURNALIST: Realistically though what are our chances tonight?

PM: Well, if everyone means what they are saying to us during the last day or so, they seem pretty good.

JOURNALIST: Prime Minister, you've been focusing some of your lobbying effort on the black Africans as I understand it. To what effect?

PM: I think we'll get good support from them.

JOURNALIST: But what about the Atlanta bid?

PM: They are a serious bid. I mean we are in the situation where all the other competitors are serious competitors. Our campaign has not been knocking the others. We recognise their merits, their virtues, the arguments for them. We simply believe honestly that ours is the best.

JOURNALIST: If we do lose tonight there'll be a lot of disappointed people in Melbourne surely.

PM: Sure there will. Sure there will. They would know, if that is the case, and I hope and believe we will win, but they can be certain that if Melbourne is not successful that they ought to be terribly proud of the great group in the team that has been working - I exclude

myself from this because I have been doing my bit - but the great organisation under the leadership of John Ralph has been doing a magnificent job. If I could put it this way, certainly no stone has been left unturned.

JOURNALIST: Would a second or third put Melbourne in line for say the 2000 Games?

PM: People have been saying you ought to get this one. If you don't well then you're in with a very good chance for the next one. But we're about 1996.

JOURNALIST: Are you encouraged by the firming odds?

PM: I'd rather be getting firming than going out.

JOURNALIST: Were you aware of this alleged death threat in 1988?

PM: London.

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