

13



## PRIME MINISTER

**TRANSCRIPT OF PRIME MINISTER, THE HON. P. J. KEATING, M.P., AT  
SYDNEY 2000 BID PRESS CONFERENCE  
MONTE CARLO, MONACO  
23 SEPTEMBER, 1993**

**PM:** Well, thank you John. Well, I think my congratulations go to the Bid team on the effort that they have established over a considerable period of time. And now, finally, the presentation which I think was an effective one, displaying as it has, Sydney as a very natural site for the Olympics - with all the facilities largely complete, a great stock of hotel rooms and, of course, the great city itself. And, I think, also the fact that it portrayed that Australia is a sports loving country; and that people naturally participate in sports; and that the various elements of our presentation covered the breadth of the culture of Sydney - and in a generic sense, Australia. Because in many respects here, while we are proposing the city of Sydney we really are proposing Australia as a nation as the host.

So, I was delighted to be part of this presentation, as was Annita, and I can only sincerely hope that the presentation has been as effective as we hope it was. I said to some journalists earlier, its now in the ballot box and we'll wait and see what happens.

**J:** Prime Minister the big guns are really here in Monte Carlo today. It's fantastic to see so many famous people in one place. Could you spell out to me why this is so important to you, that you, like John Major, have to come here to Monte Carlo to sell Sydney to the International Olympic Committee?

**PM:** Well, I think, as I said in my opening remarks we're selling Sydney - but also Australia in very much a national sense. And I think if one is serious about that for such an international sporting-pageant which the Olympics are, I think it's entirely appropriate that the head of government come and say that. And also make clear as we have, our financial support, etcetera, for the bid. I think this rounds out the confidence with which IOC members view any bid on a national basis. So, I'm not surprised that John Major is here, as I am. I just think he's got a tougher job of it than I have, that's all.

**Ends.**