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PRIME MINISTER

**TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING, MP
DOORSTOP RAAF FAIRBAIRN, 20 OCTOBER, 1993**

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J: Mr Keating, are you leaving on a good note?

PM: Yes, I think so. I think we will see the Budget to bed this week, largely, in terms of its aggregates, intact which will be good for now and good for the next few years as the recovery which is now coming through, strongly comes through. That's when we want the Budget deficit coming down, and that's why the Budget is going to be good for the place. And I think the nation is entitled to feel good about Mabo. I think it proves that even diverse interests can be handled well, and that the country is capable of doing good things.

J: Prime Minister, do you think you will have to do some more deals with the Greens to get Mabo legislation through the Senate?

PM: I don't think so. I think they are very supportive of the general thrust of Mabo.

J: Have you got anything to say to Mr Court today? I believe a breakthrough didn't eventuate in Melbourne today.

PM: We weren't hoping for one. He was only, I think, coming to tell us what he thought his points of objection were. But again, he has got to consider his position, I think; that is: how does he handle now the reality of Mabo, particularly when other conservative States are sort of endorsing the general principles in the Commonwealth's draft legislation.

J: What do you see as the key issues of the Cyprus meeting?

PM: Well, I think, it's that there will always be generally attention to international events and I expect that we will also have a perspective on things in the African continent from the African members, particularly South Africa, but it is a very mixed agenda.

J: Do you foresee any comment at all regarding a republic over there, or have you already said your piece on that?

PM: No, I don't. But I will have a chance to see Prime Minister John Major and Prime Minister Mahathir, of Malaysia, and some other leaders as well.

J: How much will you be pressing Dr Mahathir on the APEC issue?

PM: It is not a matter of pressing him. I think we all have common interests and it is just a matter of understanding what each person, or each country's position is.

Thank you.