



PRIME MINISTER

**TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING MP
DOORSTOP, ORIENTAL HOTEL, BANGKOK, THURSDAY, 7 APRIL 1994**

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J: Prime Minister, are you pleased to have been given the Order of the White Elephant?

PM: Well I think it is a tribute to Australia that the King of Thailand should have bestowed upon the Prime Minister of Australia an order which is their highest civilian order.

J: What does it mean to you personally?

PM: I take it as a compliment that His Majesty the King of Thailand and the Thai Government regard those things which I'm undertaking here as being of significance and of sufficient importance to warrant such an award.

J: Did the King talk at all about the bridge and the significance of tomorrow?

PM: The King was very taken with the bridge, saying that he regards it as an historic occasion; that it will be his first visit from the country in a quarter of a century. His first visit ever to Laos, and the bridge is of course the occasion for it happening. He said, to use his own expression, it was a very historic occasion.

ends.