



PRIME MINISTER

**TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P.J. KEATING MP,
DOORSTOP, KURILPA PARK, BRISBANE, 27 OCTOBER 1994**

E & OE PROOF COPY

PM: You wanted a comment about David Wilson. We have unconfirmed, but we understand fairly authoritative reports that David Wilson and his two associates were killed in Cambodia and, I think, this has been communicated to his parents. If this is true, this is a very tragic outcome and I would like on behalf of the Government to extend my condolences to David Wilson's parents and to anyone so affected by this tragedy. There is obviously a substantial risk for young Australians travelling in Cambodia, particularly in some parts of the country and it is something that we will need to be more vigilant about.

J: What about the state of the military aid for the Cambodian defence forces. Where does that stand now?

PM: That is nought to do with this. That is a broader question about how best Australia can continue to help the process of democratisation in Cambodia and how we may be able to help the government of Cambodia establish itself as a government of the people which commands the respect of the people.

J: What response now are you expecting from the Cambodian Government?

PM: Well, I don't know. We'll wait and see what they have to say, but again, they are unconfirmed reports but they have a ring of authority about them.

J: Do you have any message to the Khmer Rouge?

PM: Well, it's not for me to have a message to them. My message has been consistent, I think, that is that the best process for Cambodia is to see the reflection of the peoples wishes in the government of their affairs and where all factions in the country should come together and try to make a success of their future. This basic stand out position which the Khmer Rouge has taken can't, in the final analysis, produce anything but more hardship and problems for the people of Cambodia.

ends