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# PRIME MINISTER

**TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING MP**

**DOORSTOP AT FAIRBAIRN ON DEPARTURE FOR JAKARTA  
SUNDAY 13 NOVEMBER 1994**

**PM:** This is, I think, an historic opportunity for the region, this meeting of APEC. It represents half the world's production and half the world's population - the whole of the Pacific rim - and it has never been organised before with anything like a free trade agenda. So, with this adoption of these objectives APEC would become an institutionalised force for freer trade in the area. And upon the adoption of these proposals it would give Australia a seat at the largest table it has ever sat at because we have never been part of any area dedicated to free trade, we have always been on our own. So, that is what we are hoping from this meeting, that President Soeharto's draft declaration will be adopted and then in subsequent meetings we can get on to working out how and when we put these things into effect.

**J:** (Inaudible - Optimistic?)

**PM:** Well I think so. I think there are very good feelings about it. You can't hope to span an area like the United States, Japan, China, South East Asia, and have everyone agreeing to every dot point. But I think most people take the view that they have got to give something to get something and that there is a greater good to be served here, so I am reasonably optimistic about it.

**J:** (Inaudible - what will it mean to Australia?)

**PM:** It will mean multiples of what the Uruguay Round meant for us, and I gave some of the figures on Friday.

**J:** Mr Downer faces an important party room meeting on Tuesday how much longer do you think he'll last?

**PM:** Well I hope the Liberals don't do anything rash while I am away. I always like to be in town when they get up to their tricks. And I want to concentrate on the events at hand in Bogor, in Indonesia. So they should think of the country and not provide any distractions.

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