



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER  
CANBERRA

**FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING**

Since the Opposition today - in statements by Mr Howard, Mr Downer, Mr Fischer and Mr Taylor - has chosen to respond to the French nuclear test in a blatantly party political and cynical way it may be worth remembering Mr Howard's initial response to the French decision to resume testing (attached).

**CANBERRA  
6 SEPTEMBER 1995**

TRANSCRIPT OF THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION - DOORSTOP,  
CAIRNS COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 14 JUNE 1995 - EXTRACT

JH: ... any reasonable, diplomatic moves and protests which the Federal Government wants to take will have our full support.

J: Would that go as far as say, withdrawing the Ambassador from Paris?

JH: Well, I think, that's a little premature at this stage.

J: Tim Fischer was suggesting this morning the possibility of a consumer boycott of French goods. Do you endorse that?

JH: Well, we'll talk about the matter this morning.

**LATER THE SAME DAY.....**

JH: ..... I support the recall of our Ambassador for consultations. I am keeping the situation under review. I have discussed it with Alexander Downer and I will be discussing the matter with my other colleagues again next week. But certainly what the Government has done so far is an appropriate response.

J: What about trade sanctions?

JH: I wouldn't, at this stage, be arguing for trade sanctions. I understand also that some people have called, and I certainly agree with them as individuals, to boycott things. It is one of those situations that you have got to keep under review and just the response today is not necessarily the final response. Sometimes in these matters what you should do is give an initial response and if that doesn't produce any result, then you might consider a further response and it is never smart in those situations to fire all your shots at once.

ENDS