



PRIME MINISTER

**TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P.J. KEATING MP
DOORSTOP, GRAND HYATT HOTEL, MELBOURNE, 5 OCTOBER 1995**

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J: Mr Howard says Australia doesn't have enough combat capability. What's your reaction to that?

PM: I would reject any such conclusion by him. We have had probably the most far-reaching examination of our Defence, with a White Paper in the 1980s and then the Strategic Review recently. But I notice also he's saying he won't put any more money into Defence, so what's he doing, wringing his hands? Well, that's what he's normally doing, of course.

J: But he said the White paper is a failure?

PM: On what basis would he say that when the serious people in Australian Defence, and Australian Defence analysis have never concurred in that view. And if he thinks that, where's his money? I think he will tell you he's not committing any more funds to Defence.

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