



## PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING MP  
DOORSTOP, DEPARTURE FOR INDONESIA, RAAF FAIRBAIRN,  
CANBERRA, 17 DECEMBER 1995

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J: Mr Keating, are you satisfied this treaty is in Australia's best interests?

PM: Well, I think the signing is going to be a moment in history which is going to very much shape Australia's future. And I think we feel the poignancy of that - all of us, involved with it. And it will make not only Indonesia's and Australia's futures more secure, but in making it secure, it will make the region more secure.

J: Mr Downer says it has been a very rushed secretive affair - announced on Thursday, and suddenly signed on Monday.

PM: It might have been rushed for the Opposition, it wasn't rushed for us. It took a couple of years in the making, and it's had all of the due process and consideration, and bilateral discussions that it should obviously have.

J: But he says there's been no public debate surrounding this treaty.

PM: Well, these sort of treaties require the support of the Government, the process of the Cabinet, and that is what it has had.

J: Are you concerned about Dr Mahatir's comments?

PM: I haven't seen them. In today's press? I haven't seen today's press.

J: He said that Australia.....

PM: Look, I haven't seen today's press at all. Okay, I'll think I'll leave it at that. Thanks.

ends.