

02 MAR 1996

AUSTRALIAN REPORTER OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS

BANGKOK, March 2 (Bernama) -- An Australian journalist suffered from one of those situations most feared by reporters -- being overtaken by events.

The reporter, one of those who failed initially to get a seat in the Prime Minister's press conference because of limited places, could not resist asking Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for his feelings regarding the likelihood of an electoral defeat for Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating.

The journalist, who was among those who helped persuade officials to move the news conference to a much larger auditorium, must have gone back to find that Keating had indeed been ousted in today's general election by opposition leader John Howard.

For the record, Dr Mahathir said he did not wish to interfere in the internal affairs of another country "much as I look to others not interfering in Malaysia's internal affairs." -- BERNAMA

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