

'I'm a very friendly person'

Public
Q Going back to the earlier question about your rising and declining fortunes, now rising again. One of us here contended that you are now back in popularity. People said that since your coronary by-pass operation, you are a friendlier person. Is it the case that previously, you were not friendly and now you are friendly?

A (Laughter). Well, I have been told that I was a very unfriendly person. Even before the operation, I was trying to correct this impression which I think is unjustified. I am normally a very friendly person. But I don't have a very friendly face. I don't smile that often. People tell me that I don't smile, and so now I have to smile more often. I have to try to get rid of my preoccupation with serious matters. I will have to reserve my own time for that kind of thing. But certainly, the coronary operation has got a very strong psychological effect on me as it will have on anybody. During the operation, your heart actually stops. That means, technically you have died before you recover. That is an experience which affects everybody. The doctors told me that anyone who has gone through the operation has gone through a very traumatic experience and it shocks him. Usually he is a changed person. Maybe I'm changed because of that.

