

65/011

FOR PRESS :

P.M. No. 17/1965

NATIONAL RADIATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Statement by the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Menzies

The Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies, announced today that Professor Sydney Sunderland, Professor of Experimental Neurology and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine in the University of Melbourne who had served for more than five years as Chairman of the National Radiation Advisory Committee had, in view of many pressing commitments, expressed his wish to resign the position. The Government had accepted Professor Sunderland's resignation with regret.

Sir Robert said that Professor Sunderland had given outstanding service to the Government. The Committee which he had led with such distinction had the important task of examining, with scientific detachment, the effects of ionising radiation on the Australian community, including possible effects in Australia of world-wide fall-out from nuclear weapons tests. Sir Robert said the Committee's advice on these matters had been most valuable to the Government and it must indeed be reassuring to the Australian community to know that these important questions were under continual review.

The Prime Minister also announced that Professor F.C. Courtice, Professor of Experimental Pathology, John Curtin School of Medical Research, Australian National University, had accepted the Government's invitation to succeed Professor Sunderland as Chairman of the Committee.

Professor Courtice is a medical scientist of high personal and scientific reputation and was, prior to assuming his present Chair at the Australian National University, the Director of the Kanematsu Institute of Pathology at Sydney Hospital for ten years. Before this he had been Reader in Human Physiology at Oxford, after holding other research posts and a Queensland Rhodes Scholarship there. Sir Robert said the Government was gratified that such an eminent medical scientist as Professor Courtice would lead the Committee in its future work.

---

CANBERRA,

12th February, 1965.