



# DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NO

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## APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER, LONDON

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Whitlam, announced today the appointment as Deputy High Commissioner in London of Mr D.W. McNicol, C.B.E. Mr McNicol is currently Australian High Commissioner to Canada.

Mr McNicol was born in Adelaide in 1913 and was educated at Kings College and the University of Adelaide. He served in the Royal Australian Air Force from 1940 to 1945 and joined the Department of Foreign Affairs in 1946.

Mr McNicol is a senior and experienced officer of the Department of Foreign Affairs. After service in Tokyo and Washington, he was, during the period 1953 to 1954, accredited as Australian Minister in Viet-Nam, Cambodia and Laos. Mr McNicol attended the Imperial Defence College in London in 1957 and was then appointed Australian Commissioner in Singapore, where he served from 1957 to 1960. After a period as Assistant Secretary of the Pacific and Americas Branch in the Department, he was appointed Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan towards the end of 1962, an appointment he held for three years. From the end of 1965 until early 1968 he was Australian High Commissioner to New Zealand after which he served as Australian Ambassador to Thailand. Mr McNicol has served in his present position as High Commissioner to Canada since August 1969.

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As Deputy High Commissioner Mr McNicol will succeed Mr W.B. Pritchett, who has been Acting High Commissioner since the retirement of Sir Alexander Downer. The Prime Minister recently announced that the new High Commissioner will be Mr J.I. Armstrong.

Mr McNicol is expected to take up his appointment in London in April 1973. He is married with one son.