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# PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

19 JANUARY 1979

## EXTENSION OF APPOINTMENT - MR JUSTICE FOX

The Prime Minister announced today that the term of appointment of Mr Justice Fox as Australia's Ambassador-at-Large on nuclear proliferation and safeguards matters had been extended.

The Prime Minister said that, since Mr Justice Fox's appointment as Ambassador-at-Large in November 1977, he had conveyed the Australian Government's concern for a stronger world non-proliferation regime to many countries and he had made an important contribution to international understanding in this area.

Mr Justice Fox was to have returned to his judicial duties in the next few weeks but the Government had prevailed upon him to agree to defer his return to the Bench to enable him to further progress the cause of international nuclear non-proliferation. The Prime Minister paid tribute to Mr Justice Fox for being prepared to sacrifice his own personal preferences in the national interest.

The Prime Minister stated that Mr Justice Fox will be returning to Australia shortly for consultations with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and himself.

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