



PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

13 JANUARY 1982

APPOINTMENT OF GOVERNOR-GENERAL

It has been announced from Buckingham Palace that The Queen, on the recommendation of Her Australian Prime Minister, has approved the appointment of The Right Honourable Sir Ninian Stephen, KBE, QC, as Governor-General of Australia to succeed His Excellency The Right Honourable Sir Zelman Cowen, AK, GCMG, GCVO, KStJ, QC, whose resignation will take effect from late in July 1982.

I warmly welcome Her Majesty's appointment of Sir Ninian Stephen as Governor-General to succeed Sir Zelman Cowen. Sir Ninian has had a distinguished career in the law in Australia and is at present a Justice of the High Court of Australia.

Sir Ninian will be sworn as Governor-General in late July 1982, on a date to be determined.

Sir Ninian came to Australia from Britain in 1940. He completed his education in Australia and served for five years in the Australian Military Forces. Since then he has pursued a career in the law, being appointed Queen's Counsel in 1967, a Judge of the Supreme Court of Victoria in 1970 and a Justice of the High Court in 1972.

He has for many years been a Member of the Council of International House in the University of Melbourne and is Deputy Chancellor of that University.

Sir Ninian and Lady Stephen have a family of five daughters; Mary, Ann, Sarah, Jane and Elizabeth.

Lady Stephen has over many years held voluntary positions in organisations concerned with the welfare of mothers and children, students and the Arts. She is presently a Member of the Interim Council of the Museum of Australia, a Member of the Board of the Melbourne Theatre Company and a Member of the Council of Lauriston Girls School, Melbourne.

On behalf of the Government and people of Australia, I extend very sincere congratulations to Sir Ninian and to Lady Stephen.

Canberra

BIOGRAPHICAL MATERIAL

The Right Honourable Sir Ninian Stephen

Born 15 June 1923 at Nettlebed, near Oxford, United Kingdom, to Frederick and Barbara Stephen; only child.

Educated: Edinburgh Academy; St Paul's School, London; Chillon College, Glion, Switzerland; Scotch College, Melbourne.

Arrived in Australia early 1940.

1941: Commenced Law, Melbourne University, while an articulated clerk with Arthur Robinson & Co., Solicitors, Melbourne.

1941-46: Served with the Australian Military Forces in the Pacific and was discharged with the rank of Lieutenant in 1946.

1946-49: Continued legal studies, graduating LLB (Melbourne) and completed professional qualifications.

1950-51: Practised as a solicitor with Arthur Robinson & Co., after admission as a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria in 1949.

1951: Commenced practice at the Victorian Bar.

1967: Appointed Queen's Counsel.

1970: Appointed Judge of the Victorian Supreme Court.

1972: Appointed Justice of the High Court.

1979: Appointed as a member of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

Married to Valery Mary Stephen 4 June 1949: five daughters; Mary, Ann, Sarah, Jane and Elizabeth.