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## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

FRIDAY, 22 JANUARY, 1982

ACTING SECRETARY, THE DEPARTMENT OF PRIME MINISTER  
AND CABINET, AND ACTING SECRETARY TO THE CABINET

An Acting Secretary will be appointed to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in the absence on sick leave of the Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Yeend.

The Acting Secretary will be Mr. Ian Castles, Secretary, Department of Finance. Mr. Castles will also be Acting Secretary to Cabinet. The appointment will take effect from Monday 25 January, 1982.

While the appointment of Acting Secretary is somewhat unusual, so too are the circumstances.

Sir Geoffrey was hospitalised during his recreation leave for the removal of a stone from a liver duct. His medical advisers are now firm that his full recovery will require an absence from duty of at least two months.

Given also the recent departure from the Department of the former Under Secretary, Mr. M.H. Codd, appointed Secretary of the Department of Industrial Relations, and the already other heavy commitments of senior officers of the Department, it has been decided that the appropriate course is the appointment of an Acting Secretary.

The movement of Mr. Castles was made with the agreement of the Minister for Finance.

Before his appointment to the Department of Finance, Mr. Castles was Under Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

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