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## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

17 AUGUST 1988

Her Majesty's announcement of the resignation of Sir Ninian Stephen as Governor-General of Australia marks the end of a distinguished term of service by a most highly respected Australian in this high office.

On behalf of the Government, I place on record our appreciation of Sir Ninian's service to his country and our deep respect for the outstanding way in which he has carried out his duties. He has pursued a demanding task with vigour and energy, combined with good humour and dignity. The office of Governor-General has, during his occupancy, enjoyed wide recognition and regard throughout the community.

Sir Ninian will be relinquishing his appointment after nearly seven years in office. It was a measure of our admiration for the contribution he was making that the Government asked if he would be willing to extend his term for a period of almost 2 years in order to continue in office through the bicentennial year. Sir Ninian will step down with the good wishes of us all and our earnest hope that he and Lady Stephen will continue to enjoy health and happiness in the years ahead.