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PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

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In the 1983 White Paper "Reforming the Public Service" and in the second reading speech on the Public Service Reform Bill 1984, the Government indicated an intention to review the placement of Secretaries of Departments after they have held office for five years, and to consider in those reviews the possibility of another placement.

The intention of this policy was to encourage mobility, and to look to transferring Secretaries to new assignments where appropriate.

In no sense was this intended to mean that Secretaries would automatically be moved after five years in a particular post.

Two of the Secretaries of departments have either completed or are near to completing five year terms: the Secretary of the Department of Finance (Dr Keating) and the Secretary of my own Department (Mr Codd).

Following the review, it has been decided that in both those cases the Secretaries should continue in their present positions.