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APPOINTMENT OF AUSTRALIAN SECRETARY TO THE QUEEN

Statement by the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Menzies

The following statement was released today in London  
from Buckingham Palace -

"IT IS ANNOUNCED FROM BUCKINGHAM PALACE THAT THE  
QUEEN HAS APPOINTED VICE-ADMIRAL SIR ROY DOWLING AS  
AUSTRALIAN SECRETARY TO THE QUEEN AND TO BE A MEMBER  
OF HER MAJESTY'S HOUSEHOLD."

Sir Roy Dowling's appointment as Australian  
Secretary to The Queen was welcomed in Canberra today by the  
Prime Minister. The Prime Minister said that the appointment  
was one of significance for Australia and would help to maintain  
the close association that already existed between all the  
members of the Royal Family and Australia. The appointment was  
Her Majesty's own idea and he was delighted to fall in with it.  
The Prime Minister congratulated Sir Roy on his appointment.  
It was one which would give Sir Roy personal satisfaction follow-  
ing on his similar appointment as Australian Secretary to The  
Queen during the period of Her Majesty's last visit to Australia.

The Prime Minister said he expected Sir Roy's appoint-  
ment to be the forerunner of successive appointments of a  
similar nature. In general, the appointments would be for  
two-year periods. Sir Roy's appointment is for two years with  
effect from 1st November, 1963. The Australian Secretary to  
The Queen will be attached to the Governor-General's Household  
and will maintain close contact with the Governor-General.

The main work of the Australian Secretary to The Queen  
will be in connection with visits by Her Majesty or other members  
of the Royal Family to Australia. The Australian Secretary will  
be brought into the planning of visits and may accompany any of  
the Royal visitors during their visit. He will also be available  
to assist the Governor-General in other matters which from time  
to time the Governor-General may suggest.

The Prime Minister emphasised that the position of  
Australian Secretary to The Queen does not have any formal place  
in the constitutional arrangements as between The Queen, the  
Governor-General and the Australian Government, and official  
matters normally handled by the Governor-General's Office will  
continue to be dealt with in this way. On the other hand, it  
would be of great assistance to have the advice of the Australian  
Secretary to The Queen available to the Government on matters  
affecting visits by members of the Royal Family.

Biographical note -

Vice-Admiral Sir Roy Dowling, KCVO, KBE, CB, DSO, retired  
as Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee in 1961, having held  
the position for two years. Prior to that he was First Naval  
Member and Chief of the Naval Staff from 1955-1959.

Sir Roy was appointed as Australian Secretary to The Queen for the period of Her Majesty's visit to Australia in 1963 and was Director of the Royal Visit.

Sir Roy, now retired, and living in Canberra, continues an active interest in Red Cross. He is at present Chairman of the A.C.T. Division of Red Cross.

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CANBERRA,

1st November, 1963.