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MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS

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

His Excellency the Governor-General has authorised me to make a statement this evening about the new Cabinet arrangements.

I propose to ask Parliament when it meets to amend the Ministers of State Act to permit of the appointment of three additional Ministers. This will make the total number 25 instead of 22 as at present. When this has been done, the full list and portfolios of Ministers will be as follows :-

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|---|---|---|
| 1. PRIME MINISTER   | - | The Rt. Hon. SIR ROBERT MENZIES,<br>KT, CH, QC, MP. |
| 2. MINISTER FOR TRADE AND<br>INDUSTRY   | - | The Rt. Hon. J. McEWEN, M.P.                        |
| 3. TREASURER  | - | The Rt. Hon. H.E. HOLT, MP.                         |
| 4. MINISTER FOR NATIONAL<br>DEVELOPMENT & VICE-<br>PRESIDENT OF EXECUTIVE<br>COUNCIL  | - | Senator the Hon. SIR WILLIAM<br>SPOONER, KCMG, MM.  |
| 5. MINISTER FOR DEFENCE   | - | The Hon. Paul HASLUCK, M.P.                         |
| 6. MINISTER FOR LABOUR AND<br>NATIONAL SERVICE  | - | The Hon. W. McMAHON, M.P.                           |
| 7. MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL<br>AFFAIRS   | - | The Hon. Sir GARFIELD BARWICK,<br>QC, MP.           |
| 8. MINISTER FOR PRIMARY<br>INDUSTRY   | - | The Hon. C.F. ADERMANN, M.P.                        |
| 9. MINISTER FOR CIVIL<br>AVIATION   | - | Senator the Hon. Shane PALTRIDGE                    |
| 10. MINISTER FOR HEALTH   | - | Senator the Hon. Harrie WADE                        |
| 11. MINISTER FOR SUPPLY   | - | The Hon. Allen FAIRHALL, M.P.                       |
| 12. MINISTER FOR CUSTOMS  | - | Senator the Hon. N.H.D. HENTY                       |
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| 13. MINISTER FOR WORKS, and<br>assisting the Prime Minister<br>in Commonwealth activities<br>in relation to research and<br>education which fall within<br>the Prime Minister's<br>Department | - | Senator the Hon. J.G. GORTON                        |
| 14. MINISTER FOR SHIPPING AND<br>TRANSPORT  | - | The Hon. Gordon FREETH, M.P.                        |

15. POSTMASTER-GENERAL - The Hon. A.S. HULME
16. MINISTER FOR IMMIGRATION - The Hon. Hubert OPPERMAN, OBE, MP.
17. MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SERVICES - The Hon. H.S. ROBERTON, M.P.
18. MINISTER FOR REPATRIATION - The Hon. R.W.C. SWARTZ, MBE, ED, MP.
19. MINISTER FOR AIR - The Hon. D.E. FAIRBAIRN, DFC, MP.
20. ATTORNEY-GENERAL - The Hon. B.M. SNEDDEN, M.P.
21. MINISTER FOR TERRITORIES - The Hon. C.E. BARNES, M.P.
22. MINISTER FOR HOUSING - The Hon. L.H.E. BURY, M.P.
23. MINISTER FOR THE ARMY, and assisting the Treasurer - The Hon. A.J. FORBES, MC, MP.
24. MINISTER FOR THE INTERIOR - The Hon. J.D. ANTHONY, MP.
25. MINISTER FOR THE NAVY - The Hon. F.C. CHANEY, AFC, MP

Until the Ministers of State Act has been amended

SENATOR GORTON will be Minister for Interior and Works, the appointment of MR. ANTHONY to Interior being deferred until the amendment.

SIR CARFIELD BARWICK will be Attorney-General and Minister for External Affairs, the appointment of MR. SNEDDEN as Attorney-General being deferred until the amendment.

MR. FORBES will be Minister for the Army and Navy, the appointment of MR. CHANEY being deferred until after the amendment.

I propose that tomorrow Mr. Anthony, Mr. Snedden and Mr. Chaney should be sworn as Executive Councillors.

Mr. Townley, who has been so effective as Minister for Defence and whose illness we all deeply regret, will, I confidently anticipate, be fully recovered in time to take up an appointment as Australian Ambassador to Washington.

Sir Howard Beale's term expires in March, after a very notable period of service by him to Australia in the United States.

At the expiration of Sir Eric Harrison's currently extended term, Mr. Downer will become Australian High Commissioner in London. In order to avoid another Ministerial change later on, Mr. Downer indicated to me that he would not desire to be

re-appointed as a Minister, though he will of course for the time being continue to be a Member of the House. This was a most helpful proposal on his part, since I know that he is deeply attached to the work of the Immigration Department, a Department in which he has been markedly successful.

Mr. Cramer, who has had a long and valuable term of office as a Minister, placed himself at my disposal, knowing that in current circumstances I might wish to bring some younger men in. His generous action is much appreciated by me.

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CANBERRA,

17th December, 1963