

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR ROBERT MENZIES, KT, CH, QC, MP

I announce that the Governor-General, His Excellency the Right Honourable Viscount De L'Isle, V.C., P.C., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., K. St J., has received The Queen's permission to relinquish the office of Governor-General in the Aust. autumn of 1965.

Although his retirement is still some time away, the Governor-General and I have each felt it to be desirable that some public indication be given now to His Excellency's intention to retire, so that, as and when necessary, he may lay his plans for the future. He will, subject to his period of leave in the United Kingdom between June and August, carry out his full duties as Governor-General until the time of his retirement.

The Government received the news of His Excellency's retirement with great regret. It would have wished, if circumstances had permitted, to arrange an extension of His Excellency's appointment so that he might continue for a further period of years with the work he has so well and with such a high sense of duty carried out as Governor-General of Australia. His Excellency's retirement conforms, however, with the understanding which he had with the Government at the time of his appointment, to the effect that he would be unable to accept office for a period of more than four years.

Lord De L'Isle came to Australia with his wife, the late Viscountess De L'Isle, in mid-1961.

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CANBERRA.