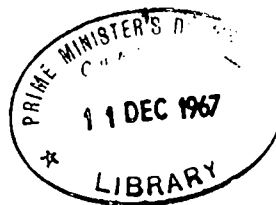


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SENIOR GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr Harold Holt

Sir Edwin Hicks, Secretary to the Department of Defence, will become Australia's High Commissioner to New Zealand early next year.

He will be succeeded by Sir Henry Bland, at present Secretary to the Department of Labour and National Service. Sir Henry's appointment will be from 3th January, 1968.

Sir Edwin has distinguished himself as one of the Commonwealth's most able administrators during his eleven years as Permanent Head of the Department of Defence and, prior to that, when Secretary to the Department of Air from 1951 to 1956. During a period of increased defence activity, Sir Edwin served in the finest traditions of the Public Service and the Government is fortunate that his valued service and advice will be retained through his acceptance now of the post of High Commissioner to New Zealand. Sir Edwin's intimate knowledge of a wide spectrum of Government policy should prove invaluable in his new post.

The new Secretary to the Department of Defence, Sir Henry Bland, is also one of Australia's foremost administrators. A graduate in law from Sydney University, he was formerly Agent-General for New South Wales in London. He joined the Department of Labour and National Service in 1946 and, in 1952, at the age of 42, became Secretary to that Department. Sir Henry has led numerous Australian delegations to conferences of the International Labour Organization and has had wide and lengthy experience in public administration.

It is expected that Cabinet will tomorrow have discussions directed to the appointment of a successor to the post of Secretary to the Department of Labour and National Service.

CANBERRA,
6 December, 1967