



PRIME MINISTER

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AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER - LONDON

Statement by the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. William McMahon, CH, MP

The Australian High Commissioner in London, the Hon. Sir Alexander Downer, KBE, retires from his post on Tuesday next, 24 October.

Sir Alexander was appointed High Commissioner in 1964, prior to which he had been Minister for Immigration and Member for Angas.

The Prime Minister paid tribute to the long and effective service of Sir Alexander and to his contribution to the maintenance of the traditional close links with Britain during a time of change and reorientation.

Until a new High Commissioner is appointed, Mr W.B. Pritchett, who has been Deputy High Commissioner since 1969, has been appointed by the Executive Council to act as High Commissioner.

CANBERRA,
20 October 1972