



**DEPARTMENT OF
FOREIGN
AFFAIRS**

NO

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APPOINTMENT OF AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE
POLISH PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Whitlam, announced today that Mr Francis Stuart had been appointed Australian Ambassador to the Polish People's Republic. Mr Stuart will be the first resident Australian Ambassador and will succeed Mr L.J. Lawrey who has been dually accredited from Moscow. Mr Whitlam said that the decision to accredit a resident Ambassador in Poland and to establish an Australian diplomatic mission in Warsaw reflected the Government's wish to develop closer relations with the Polish People's Republic as part of Australia's efforts to strengthen its diplomatic representation in Eastern Europe.

Mr Stuart was born in 1912 and was educated at Geelong Church of England Grammar School and the University of Oxford. He joined the Department of Foreign Affairs in 1945 and served in Paris, Jakarta, Singapore and New Delhi before becoming Head of Mission. From 1957 to 1961 Mr Stuart was Minister and later Ambassador to Cambodia. From 1962 to 1966 he was Ambassador in Cairo and from 1966 to 1970 in Manila. He has recently completed an appointment as Ambassador to Pakistan with concurrent accreditation as Ambassador to Afghanistan.

Mr Stuart, who is married, is expected to take up his appointment in September.