



**DEPARTMENT OF
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AFFAIRS**

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APPOINTMENT OF AUSTRALIAN CONSUL-GENERAL, NEW YORK

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Whitlam, announced today that General Sir John Wilton, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., had been appointed Australian Consul-General in New York. Sir John Wilton will succeed Sir John Bates, C.B.E., who will complete a three year term in August of this year.

Mr Whitlam said that Sir John Wilton had had a distinguished military career, having risen to become Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee from 1966-1970. Mr Whitlam said that he believed that Sir John would bring distinction to the position of Consul-General in New York at a time when Australia was developing its contacts with the United States in commercial and in other fields. He would thus be carrying on the valuable work which Sir John Bates had been doing for the past three years.

Sir John Wilton was born in 1910 and was educated at Grafton High School and at the Royal Military College, Duntroon, from which he graduated in 1930. From 1930-1939 Sir John served with the British Army in India and in Burma. During World War II he served in the Middle East and in the

South Pacific Area. In 1944 Sir John was appointed General Staff Officer with the Military Mission in Washington. Later he served as Commander of the 28th Commonwealth Brigade in Korea where he was awarded the United States Legion of Merit.

Sir John Wilton was Commandant of the Royal Military College, Duntroon, from 1957 to 1960 and for three years from 1960 was Chief of the S.E.A.T.O. Military Planning Office. In 1963 he was appointed Chief of the Australian General Staff. From 1966 to 1970 he served as Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee and was promoted to the rank of General in 1968.

It is expected that Sir John and Lady Wilton will arrive in New York early in September.