



PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 121

28 August 1973

NEW SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS NEXT YEAR

The Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Whitlam, today announced the appointment of Mr. Alan Renouf, at present Ambassador to France and to UNESCO, to succeed Sir Keith Waller as Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Whitlam said Sir Keith would begin pre-retirement leave on 2nd January, 1974. Mr. Renouf will assume duty on 3 January 1974.

Mr Renouf, who is 54, entered the Department 30 years ago after active service in the A.I.F. as one of the original diplomatic cadets when a previous Labor Government decided in 1943 to adopt open competition as the means of recruiting most Australian diplomats.

Mr. Renouf has served in eleven overseas posts in Europe, North America, the United Nations, the Middle East and Africa. Five of these postings had been as Head of Mission. Mr. Renouf had also served for three years as a Legal Counsellor in the Secretariat of the United Nations.

Mr. Whitlam described Mr. Renouf as an outstanding officer of wide experience who would, he believed, fill the Secretaryship of the Department of Foreign Affairs with distinction.

Mr. Renouf is also a qualified lawyer holding the degree of Master of Laws with First Class Honours from the University of Sydney. He has specialised in international law, has worked frequently in the international economic field and has had considerable conference experience. Mr. Renouf is also fluent in Spanish and French.

CANBERRA, A.C.T.