



**DEPARTMENT OF
FOREIGN
AFFAIRS**

NO

DATE

M/134

19 September 1973

AUSTRALIAN ARCHITECTS CHOSEN FOR NEW
EMBASSY BUILDINGS

The Australian Government has commissioned six firms of Australian architects to design and supervise the building of new Australian Embassy and High Commission buildings in Saigon, Suva, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok and Paris.

The last major chancery construction overseas was the Australian Embassy Chancery at Washington which was designed in 1964 by Bates, Smart and McCutcheon, of Melbourne.

Announcing this today, the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Whitlam, said that the architects had been chosen after consideration by officers of the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Works.

Their selection had also been made in accordance with the Government's intention that new buildings at Australian diplomatic missions should not only be functional and efficient but demonstrate overseas the qualities and skills of some of Australia's leading architects.

Mr Whitlam said that the program of work comprised:-

<u>Post</u>	<u>Projects</u>	<u>Architects</u>	<u>Estimated Completion Date</u>
<u>Australian Embassy, SAIGON</u>	Chancery	Leighton Contractors of Sydney	November 1974
<u>Australian High Commission, SUVA</u>	Ambassador's Residence	Daryl Jackson Evan Walker of Melbourne	June 1975
<u>Australian High Commission, SINGAPORE</u>	Chancery	Godfrey and Spowers of Melbourne	June 1976
<u>Australian High Commission, KUALA LUMPUR</u>	Chancery	Joyce/Nankivell Associates of Melbourne	September 1976
<u>Australian Embassy, BANGKOK</u>	Chancery and Ambassador's Residence	Archer, Mortlock Murray and Woolley	September 1976
<u>Australian Embassy, PARIS</u>	Chancery and Ambassador's Residence	Harry Seidler Associates of Sydney	June 1977

Mr Whitlam said that, in addition to this program of new buildings, the Sydney firm of Peddle, Thorpe and Walker had been commissioned to design substantial extensions to the Chancery in Jakarta. A project involving the complete redesign and reconstruction of the Chancery and the Ambassador's residence in Tokyo had also been undertaken by the Department of Works.

Mr Whitlam said that the estimated total cost of the works was more than \$32 million during the next three years. This did not include fees for architects and other consultants, which would amount to about ten per cent of the design and construction costs.