



DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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SENIOR AUSTRALIAN DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS

The Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Whitlam, announced today a number of senior appointments to Australian diplomatic missions overseas. He announced that Sir James Plimsoll, C.B.E., would become Australian Ambassador to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and that he would be succeeded as Ambassador to the United States by Sir Patrick Shaw, C.B.E., currently Australian High Commissioner to India and Australian Ambassador to Nepal. Sir Patrick Shaw would be succeeded in New Delhi by Mr Bruce Grant, who until recently has been Public Affairs Commentator for "The Age".

Mr Whitlam also announced that Mr K.C.O. Shann, C.B.E. had been appointed Australian Ambassador to Japan to succeed the Honourable Gordon Freeth who would be retiring at the end of the year. Mr Shann has been Deputy Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs since 1970.

Mr Whitlam said that all of these senior appointments had been made bearing in mind the Australian Government's desire to maintain close relations with the countries concerned. Sir James Plimsoll was a former Permanent Head of the Department of Foreign Affairs and had served with distinction as Ambassador to the United States. In his new appointment as Ambassador to the Soviet Union he would bring with him long experience in the conduct of Australian foreign policy. Australian relations with the Soviet Union had developed significantly in recent years and Sir James Plimsoll's appointment would enable this development to be maintained.

Mr Whitlam said that he was confident that Sir Patrick Shaw's long experience as a senior officer of the Department of Foreign Affairs would serve him well in his new assignment to the United States.

Mr Whitlam recalled the great emphasis which successive Australian Governments had placed on relations with the United States as he had himself reaffirmed during his recent visit to Washington.

Mr Whitlam said that he was also confident that the appointment of Mr Bruce Grant to succeed Sir Patrick Shaw as Australian High Commissioner to India and Ambassador to Nepal would enable Australia to further develop its relations with one of the most significant regions in the Asian continent. Mr Grant had in past years been one of Australia's best known commentators on Asian affairs and his international reputation in the area would be of great value in his new appointment.

Mr Whitlam also paid tribute to the work of Mr K.C.O. Shann, C.B.E. as Deputy Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs of which he had also been Acting Secretary on a number of occasions. Mr Whitlam recalled in particular Mr Shann's period as Ambassador to Indonesia from 1962-1965, at which post at a particularly difficult time he had served with great distinction. Mr Whitlam said that he was looking forward to his forthcoming visit to Japan and that the appointment of Mr Shann to succeed Mr Freeth reflected the Government's desire further to consolidate mutual relations in a broad range of activities. During the past few years Mr Shann had himself been closely involved with the development of Australia's relations with Japan.

Mr Whitlam said he expected that Mr Grant would take up his appointment in November. The other three senior officers would take up their new appointments early in 1974.

Sir James Plimsoll, C.B.E., was born in 1917 and was educated at Sydney High School and the University of Sydney where he obtained the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Economics. He worked as an Economist with the Bank of New South Wales from 1938-42 and served in the Australian Military Forces from 1942-47. He has had a long and distinguished career with the Department of Foreign Affairs having been Secretary

of the Department from 1965-1970. He served between 1949-1950 at the Australian Mission to the United Nations, New York and at the Australian Embassy in Washington. He was Australian Delegate on UNCURK, Pusan from 1950-1952. Following a number of senior appointments in the Department of Foreign Affairs he became Australian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, New York where he served from 1959-1963. From 1963-1965 he was Australian High Commissioner to India and Ambassador to Nepal. His most recent appointment has been as Ambassador to the United States, which position he has held since 1970.

Sir Patrick Shaw, C.B.E. was born in 1913 and was educated at Scotch College and the University of Melbourne where he obtained the degree of Bachelor of Arts and Diploma of Public Administration. He joined the Public Service in 1936 and was Private Secretary to the Leader of the Government in the Senate from 1937 to 1939. He served in Tokyo from 1940-1941 and was Official Secretary in Wellington from 1943-1945. From 1945-1947 he was First Secretary and Charge d'Affaires in Chungking and later First Secretary in Nanking. From 1947-1949 he was Head of the Australian Mission in Tokyo and Commonwealth Member on the Allied Control Council for Japan and Australian Delegate on UNCURK. From 1951-1953 Sir Patrick Shaw was Permanent Delegate to the United Nations Mission and Consul-General in Geneva. He served as Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany from 1956-1959 and concurrently as Head of the Australian Military Mission, Berlin. He was Australian Ambassador to Indonesia from 1960-1962 following which he occupied a number of senior positions in the Department of Foreign Affairs becoming Deputy Secretary of the Department in October 1964. From 1965-1970 he was Australian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, New York. He has been High Commissioner to India and Ambassador to Nepal since April 1970. Sir Patrick Shaw is married with two children.

Mr Bruce Grant was born in 1925 and was educated at the Perth Modern School and the University of Melbourne where he obtained the degree of Bachelor of Arts. He served in the Royal

Australian Navy from 1942 to 1945 and joined the editorial staff of the Melbourne Age in 1949. He was London correspondent for The Age from 1954 to 1957. He was awarded a Nieman Fellowship at Harvard University in 1957/58. He was South East Asian correspondent for the Age and the Sydney Morning Herald from 1959-1963. In 1964-65 Mr Grant served as Washington correspondent for the Age. He was Fellow in Political Science at the University of Melbourne from 1965-1967, lecturing in international relations. He was Public Affairs Commentator for the Age from 1968-1973.

Mr Grant is the author of a number of Publications on Asian affairs of which his book "Indonesia" published in 1963 is well known. He was Roy Milne lecturer for the Australian Institute of International Affairs in 1969. His book "A Crisis of Loyalty", a study of Australian foreign policy, was published in 1972. He was a member of the Council of Monash University from 1970-73. He was President of the Melbourne Film Festival 1971 and 1972. Mr Grant has also contributed short stories to Australian and overseas journals such as The New Yorker, Esquire and Meanjin. Mr Grant is married with two children.

Mr K.C.O. Shann, C.B.E., was born in 1917 and was educated at Trinity Grammar School and the University of Melbourne where he obtained the degree of Bachelor of Arts. He joined the Commonwealth Public Service in 1939 with the Department of the Treasury and after working with the Bureau of Census and Statistics and the Department of Labour and National Service joined the Department of Foreign Affairs in 1946. He served with the Australian Mission to the United Nations, New York from 1949 to 1952 and after a number of appointments in the Department of Foreign Affairs in Canberra was assigned from 1955 to 1959 as Minister and later Ambassador to the Philippines. During 1957 Mr Shann was Australian Representative on the United Nations Special Committee on the Problem of Hungary on which he also served as Rapporteur. From 1959-1962 he was Senior External Affairs Representative at the Australian High Commission, London. He was Australian Ambassador to Indonesia from 1962-1966 after which he returned to Australia to become First Assistant Secretary of the Division of the Department handling Australia's International Aid. He was appointed a Deputy Secretary of the Department in April 1970. Mr Shann is married with three children.