



DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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VISIT OF SINGAPORE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator Willesee, announced today that the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore, Mr Sinnathamby Rajaratnam, would visit Australia from 9 to 17 November as a guest of the Australian Government.

Mr Rajaratnam, a founding member of Singapore's governing Peoples Action Party, has been active in public life since his election to the Singapore Legislative Assembly in 1959. In August 1965, he became Singapore's first Foreign Minister. He also held the Labour portfolio from 1968 until July 1971. This will be Mr Rajaratnam's first visit to Australia.

Senator Willesee said that the Australian Government welcomed the opportunity afforded by the visit to exchange views with Singapore on the international scene and on aspects of bilateral relations between the two countries. Mr Rajaratnam, will have discussions in Canberra on 15 and 16 November.

Senator Willesee also noted that Mr Rajaratnam had accepted an invitation from the Australian Institute of International Affairs to be this year's Dyason Lecturer.

Mr Rajaratnam, the first Foreign Minister to deliver the Dyason Lectures, will speak to audiences in Perth on 9 November, Sydney on 12 November, Melbourne on 13 November, Adelaide on 14 November, and in Canberra on 15 November.