



## PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 192

27 FEBRUARY 1974

### APPOINTMENT OF GOVERNOR-GENERAL

It is announced today from Government House, Canberra, that Her Majesty The Queen has graciously approved the appointment of the Hon. Sir John Kerr, K.C.M.G., to be Governor-General of Australia. He will take up office at the end of June this year when the present Governor-General, Sir Paul Hasluck, relinquishes his appointment.

Sir John has been Chief Justice of New South Wales and Lieutenant-Governor since 1972. He has had a distinguished career in both the law and public administration.

After war service with the Second AIF, Sir John was the first Principal of the Australian School of Pacific Administration. He then followed a distinguished career at the Bar in New South Wales, becoming a Queen's Counsel in 1953. In 1966 he was appointed a Judge of the Commonwealth Industrial Court and a Judge of the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory. He has also served as a Judge of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory and has held other Australian judicial commissions.

Sir John has held a number of executive positions in the legal profession, including President of the New South Wales Bar Association, President of the Law Council of Australia and foundation President of the Law Association of Asia and the Western Pacific. He has also served on a number of Government bodies, including in 1968 as Chairman of the Committee on Review of Administration Decisions, and in 1970 as Chairman of the Committee on Review of Pay for the Armed Services. In 1971 he conducted an inquiry into the salaries and allowances of Members of the Australian Parliament.

Sir John was appointed C.M.G. in 1966 and K.C.M.G. this year.

Sir John's significant attainments in the fields of law and administration have given him a familiarity with

Australian Government and State Government affairs and he is, of course, well known throughout Australia.

All Australians will join me in congratulating Sir John and welcoming him and Lady Kerr to their high appointments.

CANBERRA. A.C.T.