



NEWS RELEASE

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FOREIGN AFFAIRS APPOINTMENTS

The Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Whitlam, announced today two senior diplomatic appointments.

Mr M.R. Booker, currently Ambassador to Italy, has been appointed Australian Ambassador to Yugoslavia. He has also been concurrently appointed as non-resident Ambassador to Romania and Bulgaria.

Mr J.E. Ryan, O.B.E., at present First Assistant Secretary, Management Services Division in the Department, will succeed Mr Booker as Australian Ambassador to Italy.

Mr Booker was born in 1915. He attended the University of Sydney where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree. He joined the Australian Public Service in 1940 and the Department of Foreign Affairs in 1942. Mr Booker's overseas postings have included Chungking 1943-44, The Hague 1945-46, Berlin 1946-47, Manila 1950-52, Rangoon 1952-53, and Washington 1956-60, where he was Consellor and later Minister. From 1960 to 1963 Mr Booker was Australian Ambassador to Thailand. In 1963 he transferred to the Department of External Territories as Deputy Secretary and returned to the Department of Foreign Affairs in 1964 as First Assistant Secretary in charge of European and Middle East Affairs and Economic Relations and Information activities. He has been Ambassador to Italy since 1970. Mr Booker is married with four children.

Mr Ryan was born in 1923 and was educated at St Patrick's College, Goulburn and the University of Sydney. He joined the Department of Foreign Affairs in 1946. Mr Ryan was Australian High Commissioner to Ghana in 1965/67 and Ambassador to Laos in 1968/69. He was Minister at the Australian Embassy, Washington from 1969 to 1971 during which time he acted as Charge d'Affaires on several occasions. He has been First Assistant Secretary, Management Services Division since 1971. Mr Ryan is married with three