



NEWS RELEASE

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APPOINTMENT OF AMBASSADOR TO THE NETHERLANDS

The Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Whitlam, announced today the appointment of Mr F.J. Blakeney, C.B.E., as Australian Ambassador to the Netherlands to succeed Dr L.D. Thomson, M.V.O.

Mr Blakeney was born in 1913 and was educated at the Marist Brothers Colleges, Darlinghurst and Mittagong, and the University of Sydney. After war service in the ANF and RAAF from 1941-45 Mr Blakeney joined the Department of Foreign Affairs in 1946. He served in Paris from 1947 to 1949, in Moscow from 1949 to 1951, where he was Charge d'Affaires, and as Counsellor in Washington from 1953-1956. From 1957 to 1959 Mr Blakeney was Minister in Vientiane, Saigon and Phnom Penh.

From 1962 to 1968 he was Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany and Head of the Australian Military Mission in Berlin.

Mr Blakeney served again in Moscow as Ambassador from 1968 to 1971. He has held a number of senior positions in the Department and is currently First Assistant Secretary of the Defence Division. Mr Blakeney is married with one daughter.