



DEPARTMENT OF
FOREIGN
AFFAIRS

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APPOINTMENT OF AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL

The Prime Minister and Acting Foreign Minister, Mr Whitlam, today announced the appointment of Mr Richard J. Smith, a senior officer of the Department of Foreign Affairs, as Australian Ambassador to Israel.

Mr Smith, aged 40, will take up his duties in Tel Aviv in August, succeeding Mr F. R. Dalrymple who has been Ambassador since September 1972.

Mr Whitlam said that a continuing Australian diplomatic presence in Tel Aviv at a suitably senior level was an important indication of Australia's desire to maintain friendly, active and constructive relations with Israel. Australia had been one of the original supporters of the creation of Israel in 1948 and had a firm commitment to the right of Israel to continue to exist within secure and recognised boundaries.

Mr Smith was born in Tamworth, N.S.W., and graduated in Arts and Law from the University of Sydney. He joined the foreign service in 1961 and has served in New Delhi, Washington and latterly Geneva where he was Deputy Permanent Representative from 1972 to 1974. He is at present Assistant Secretary in charge of the Department's International Legal Branch. Mr Smith is married and has four children.