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## PRIME MINISTER

Press Statement No.565  
26 September 1975

### AUSTRALIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANISATION

The Prime Minister today announced that Mr Justice A.E. Woodward, O.B.E. is to be appointed as head of the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation.

Mr Justice Woodward has been a Judge of the Australian Industrial Court and of the Supreme Courts of the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory since 1972. In 1974 he was appointed President of the Trade Practices Tribunal.

Mr Whitlam said that before his appointment to judicial office Mr Justice Woodward had had a distinguished legal career. He had appeared as counsel for the Yirrkala Aborigines in their land rights claim on the Gove Peninsula. He had also appeared as counsel assisting the Royal Commission enquiring into drilling on the Barrier Reef.

On 15 December 1972 the Australian Government appointed Mr Justice Woodward to conduct a judicial inquiry into Aboriginal rights in land.

The Prime Minister said that it was appropriate that the very important position of Director General of Security should be filled by a Judge. In the Government's view, this position should in future always be filled by a person holding judicial office. Mr Justice Woodward would bring to the position qualities and a background of experience that made him eminently suitable for appointment to it. Legislation would be introduced to provide that Mr Justice Woodward would continue to have judicial status while he held this office.

The Prime Minister added that Mr Justice Woodward has commitments as President of the Trade Practices Tribunal that will require his attention for some weeks ahead. His appointment will take effect from 24 November 1975. In the meantime, Mr F.J. Mahony, O.B.E., Deputy Secretary, Attorney-General's Department, would act as Director-General of Security.

The Prime Minister also announced that Mr P. Barbour, the present head of the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, would be appointed Australian Consul General in New York. He will succeed General Sir John Wilton, K.B.E., C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., who will be completing his term of office in October.

Mr Whitlam said that the appointment of an officer of Mr Barbour's seniority and experience to the position of Consul General in New York was in keeping with the Government's desire to strengthen and develop its relations with the United States of America.

Mr Barbour served in the A.I.F. from 1944 to 1946 and joined ASIO in 1951. He was appointed Deputy Director-General in 1965 and Director-General in 1970.

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