



Mr Menadue

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PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

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SENIOR GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS

The Prime Minister, Mr Malcolm Fraser, today foreshadowed senior Government appointments.

Mr Fraser said that, with the greatest regret, he had to announce that Sir John Bunting would not be able to remain for his full term as High Commissioner in London, where, as in Australia, he is very highly regarded.

Earlier this year in London Sir John had a major emergency operation. From this he has recovered well, but with impairment for the time being of his voice.

After medical advice, Sir John has told the Prime Minister that, given particularly the heavy representational role in London, he feels it best that arrangements for appointment of a successor as High Commissioner now be set in train.

Mr Fraser said that Sir John, who is at present in Australia on leave and consultations, has agreed to return to London later this year, pending arrangements for his successor to take up his duties as High Commissioner early in 1977. Sir John's future plans will depend on medical advice, but the Prime Minister said he hoped very much that Sir John's vast experience, wisdom and judgement would continue to be available to his Government.

Mr Fraser said that the unexpected vacancy of High Commissioner in London would bring in train several appointments. Pending completion of formal processes, full details could not be publicly announced, but Mr Fraser said that some changes at the departmental head level would be included.

Mr J.L. Menadue, at present Secretary to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, will vacate that position to accept another senior Commonwealth Government appointment. Mr A.T. Carmody, currently Secretary to the Department of Business and Consumer Affairs, will succeed Mr Menadue.

Mr Fraser paid tribute to Mr Menadue's competence, impartiality and discretion. Mr Menadue had given unstintingly of his energies and managerial skills in serving as the confidential adviser to the Prime Minister and Cabinet in the important transitional period of the Liberal National Country Party Government, as he had done for its predecessor.

Mr Fraser added that fuller announcements would be made as soon as the formal processes for these and other related appointments are completed.