



## PRIME MINISTER

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### APPOINTMENT OF MR. K. C. O. SHANN, CBE, AS CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

The Prime Minister, Mr. Malcolm Fraser, announced today that the Government had appointed Mr. K. C. O. Shann, CBE, as Chairman of the Public Service Board.

Mr. Shann is currently the Australian Ambassador in Tokyo and his appointment as High Commissioner in London was announced in October 1976.

Mr. Fraser said that Mr. Shann had had a long and distinguished career in service to Australia. He had been Australia's Ambassador in Japan since 1974 and prior to that held the position of Deputy Secretary in the Department of Foreign Affairs. He had also been Ambassador in Indonesia and the Philippines and had been a senior member of the Australian delegations to numerous United Nations and other international conferences.

Mr. Shann had held appointments in the Treasury and in the former Department of Labor and National Service before joining the Department of Foreign Affairs. He joined the Public Service in 1939.

Mr. Fraser said that the British Government had been informed in advance of the Government's intention to appoint Mr. Shann as Chairman of the Public Service Board. The Prime Minister stressed that the Government's decision was based entirely on Mr. Shann's suitability for the position of Chairman of the Public Service Board to which he would bring the expertise, judgement and capacity for management which had so marked his public service career at home and abroad.

The Prime Minister said that Mr. Shann's appointment in no way reflected on the importance the Australian Government attached to its relations with the United Kingdom. The change of plan with respect to Mr. Shann's appointment as High Commissioner to the United Kingdom had only arisen through the decision of Sir Alan Cooley to accept appointment as Secretary to the Department of Productivity and in no way implied any discourtesy to the British Government.

Mr. Shann's appointment will take effect from 28 March.