



PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

21 DECEMBER 1977

The Prime Minister today announced that he had notified the Governor General that he did not intend to proceed with the appointment of Senator Glenister Sheil to the Ministry.

He had taken this action after consultation with the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Anthony.

It had been intended that, upon passage of necessary legislation allowing an increase in the size of the Ministry from twenty-seven to twenty-eight, Senator Sheil would be appointed the Minister for Veterans' Affairs.

The Prime Minister said he had informed Senator Sheil that it would be inappropriate for him to be a member of the Ministry.

The Prime Minister re-affirmed the Government's complete opposition to apartheid.

The Prime Minister recalled his statements earlier this year when he had described apartheid as a pernicious and evil doctrine which had long been condemned from Australia. Sir Robert Menzies had condemned apartheid as early as 1961 indicating that in his view it was a policy that would end in the most frightful disaster.

The Prime Minister indicated his Government's policy in relation to apartheid would not change. Any policy based on the belief that one race is superior to another is an affront to human dignity and to the well-being of mankind, and must be condemned.

Mr Fraser said that he regretted these developments and he hoped that nobody would for one moment doubt Australia's unequivocal opposition to apartheid.

The Prime Minister indicated, as he had affirmed to the Ministry yesterday, that once a person was a member of the Ministry team, whatever his personal or private views might be, he must at all times support the Ministry view and that there is no room within his Ministry for a person who is not prepared to accept that and abide by it.