



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

MONDAY, 16 JULY 1979

ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR INTER-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

The Prime Minister, Malcolm Fraser, today announced three appointments to the Advisory Council for Inter-Government Relations -- Professor R.C. Gates, as member and Chairman, the Hon. Haddon Storey, Attorney-General and Minister for Federal Affairs in the Victorian Parliament and the Hon. W.D. Lickiss, Minister for Justice and Attorney-General in the Queensland Parliament as members.

Professor Gates, currently Vice-Chancellor of the University of New England, has had a distinguished academic career. He was formerly Head of the Department of Economics at the University of Queensland. Professor Gates is a member of many eminent academic and professional associations and is also a member of the Commonwealth Government's Economic Consultative Committee.

Mr. Fraser said that the Advisory Council for Inter-Government Relations was an essential feature of the federalism policy of the Commonwealth Government. The Advisory Council was established in 1976 with the object of improving inter-government co-operation. It receives references from the Premiers' Conference to keep under consideration and review issues for inter-government co-operation and to recommend ways and means for improving inter-government co-operation.

The Advisory Council has been given two references. The first is to examine the relationships which ought to exist between the three spheres of government. The second is an examination of interchanges of personnel between the three spheres of government. Preliminary reports on each reference have been published.

The Council has 22 members representing Commonwealth, State and local government and the community. The Secretariat is located in Hobart.

Mr. Fraser acknowledged the valuable contribution of the Hon. Peter Howson who has been the Acting Chairman since May this year when the office of Chairman became vacant on the resignation of the foundation Chairman, Professor R.L. Mathews.

Mr. Howson chaired a series of public meetings as part of the information gathering exercise associated with the major inquiry into the relationships which should exist between the three levels of government. An interim report of this inquiry was published recently.

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