



PRIME MINISTER

CANBERRA

15 January 1981

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

OFFICE OF NATIONAL ASSESSMENTS

The Government has decided to appoint Mr. M.J. Cook to be next Director-General of the Office of National Assessments when the present Director-General Mr. R.W. Furlonger retires after attaining the age of 60. Mr. Cook will take up duty in April.

Mr. Cook is currently Deputy Secretary in the Department of Foreign Affairs. He has served in Egypt, Thailand, the United States, Indonesia, Vietnam and the United Kingdom. He attended the Imperial Defence College in 1969 and was the Chief Executive Officer, Prime Minister's Office in 1979-80.

The Government pays tribute to the retiring Director-General of the Office of National Assessments, Mr. R.W. Furlonger. Mr. Furlonger has represented his country in Austria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Indonesia, the United States, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Singapore, Pakistan and Nigeria. He was the Director of the Joint Intelligence Organisation in the Department of Defence in 1969-72. He was the first Director-General of the Office of National Assessments, established by the Government in 1977 to upgrade and co-ordinate Australia's capacity for intelligence assessment.

Mr. Furlonger has made outstanding contributions to Australia during his distinguished career both in diplomacy and in bringing the concept of the Office of National Assessments to fruition. The Government wishes him well in his retirement.

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