



**PRIME MINISTER**

FOR MEDIA

TUESDAY, 31 MARCH 1981

SIR ALEXANDER DOWNER

I was greatly saddened to learn of the death of a great Australian, Sir Alexander Downer.

When I came into Parliament Sir Alexander had been a Member for the South Australian electorate of Angas since 1949.

He became the Minister for Immigration in 1958 serving in that office with distinction during a period of expansion until 1963.

From 1964 until 1972 he was Australia's High Commissioner in London, winning great credit for his role in maintaining and developing the relationship between Australia and Britain during a period in which Britain was entering the European Community.

I always valued my friendship with Alexander Downer. Tamie and I join with Australians everywhere in extending our deepest sympathy to Lady Downer and her family.

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