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**PRIME MINISTER**

FOR MEDIA

MONDAY, 11 MAY, 1981

SIR JOHN WILTON

I was saddened to learn of the death of Sir John Wilton.

He was an outstanding Australian who served his country well in war, as a fighting soldier and in peace, as a military strategist, administrator and diplomat.

He had a most distinguished career. After active service in the Second World War and in Korea, he occupied the highest military posts in Australia.

I first came to know him personally in 1966 when he was Chief of the General Staff at the time that I was appointed Minister for the Army. Later he became Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee. In these roles he contributed greatly to our defence organisation, and to the well-being of Australia's armed services.

I had a great respect for his wide-ranging capabilities, and I greatly valued our personal relationship when he was one of my most senior advisers.

I extend my sincere sympathy to his widow and family.

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