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ACTING **PRIME MINISTER**

FOR MEDIA

23 December 1983

The Acting Prime Minister, Mr. Lionel Bowen, announced today that Mr. Frank Costigan, QC, had been given an extension of time to finalise his inquiry into the activities of the Federated Ship Painters and Dockers Union.

Mr. Costigan, who was due to submit his final report by 31 December 1983, is now to finish his task by 30 June 1984.

The extension of time given to Mr. Costigan is to enable him to finalise his report on the Federated Ship Painters and Dockers Union and to prepare for the transfer to the proposed National Crime Authority, when the Authority becomes operational, of such investigations as are appropriate to be carried out by the Authority together with relevant records and evidence.

Mr. Costigan's inquiry is conducted under commissions from the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments.