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## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

6 December 1985

The head of my Department, Sir Geoffrey Yeend, has advised me that on medical advice he wishes to relinquish his appointment and retire from the Public Service in the early part of 1986. Sir Geoffrey has been Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and Secretary to Cabinet since 1978.

While this is a matter of real regret to me and to the Government, I have of course indicated that I shall respect Sir Geoffrey's wishes.

In his forty years of service in government administration, including more than seven years as head of the Prime Minister's Department, Sir Geoffrey has held many sensitive and responsible positions. I am pleased to say that Sir Geoffrey has indicated his willingness to be available - on a part-time basis - to serve on Government advisory bodies.

A new appointment to the position of Secretary of the Department and Secretary to Cabinet will be announced in due course.