



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

30 JUNE 1986

I am pleased to announce that, after consultation with the Queen, His Excellency the Rt Hon. Sir Ninian Stephen, AK, GCMG, GCVO, KBE, will remain in office as Governor-General of Australia until the end of 1988.

I welcome the fact that the Governor-General will continue in office throughout the Bicentennial year. Both Sir Ninian and Lady Stephen have made an outstanding contribution to Australia since Sir Ninian's appointment in 1982 and will continue to do so.

While the appointment of a Governor-General is not for a fixed term, it has been a tradition that appointments are for a period of about five years and that was Sir Ninian's understanding when he took up the office. I am grateful to Sir Ninian for indicating his willingness to continue in office until the end of the Bicentennial year.