



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

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The Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Dr Stuart Harris, has informed Mr Hayden and Mr Duffy that he intends in the near future to take up a senior academic position at the Australian National University.

The Government - and particularly Mr Hayden and I - appreciates the service Dr Harris has provided as head of one of the central policy departments of Government.

He has made an important personal contribution as Secretary in helping define the nature and extent of Australia's international interests and in improving the Government's pursuit of those interests. Under Mr Hayden's direction, he has also led the Department in achieving the amalgamation of the former Departments of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Australian Overseas Information Service. The Government's objective of a more integrated and better focussed approach towards our international interests is already being acheived as a result.

Among Dr Harris' achievements was the completion in 1986 of a fundamental Review of Australia's Overseas Representation. His careful analysis of Australia's interests in the changing international environment and the optimum deployment of Government resources to service those interests has been of great value.

Dr Harris has indicated that he wishes to relinquish the Secretaryship of Foreign Affairs and Trade at the end of the first week in July. The Government has asked him to report further on AuStralia's overseas representation between then and September. This report will update the conclusions and recommendations of the earlier review in the light of developments since its completion and, in particular, since the amalgamation of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The report will also, in the light of these and any other factors, report on the case for a single overseas service.

The Government wishes Dr Harris well in his future academic career. An announcement about his successor will be made after the matter has been fully considered by the Government.