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PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

2 JUNE 1988

The Government is proposing to recommend to the Governor-General the following appointments:

- . Following the retirement at the end of the first week of July of Dr Harris from the post of Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (already announced), Mr R A Woolcott AO, will be appointed to that post. Mr Woolcott has had extensive experience in the foreign policy field, holding a number of senior appointments in that portfolio including in recent years as Australian Ambassador to the U.N., New York.
- . Mr G C Evans as Secretary, Department of Transport and Communications. Mr Evans is currently Secretary, Department of Primary Industries and Energy, and was previously Secretary, Department of Resources and Energy and has had extensive experience in the foreign policy and economic policy fields.
- . Mr G L Miller as Secretary, Department of Primary Industries and Energy. Mr Miller is an Associate Secretary in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and was previously Secretary, Department of Primary Industry. He has had a long and meritorious career in the primary industries area.
- . Mr A J Ayers AO, as Secretary, Department of Defence. Mr Ayers is currently Secretary, Department of Community Services and Health and before that was Secretary, Department of Social Security for several years. Mr Ayers has already had a long and distinguished period at the most senior levels in the Public Service.
- . Mr S A Hamilton as Secretary, Department of Community Services and Health. Mr Hamilton is a Deputy Secretary in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, and was formerly a Deputy Secretary in the Department of Community Services.

The appointments of Mr Ayers and Mr Hamilton would come into effect on 1 August 1988. The appointments of Mr Woolcott and Mr Miller would come into effect on 1 September 1988. The appointment of Mr Evans would come into effect on 1 October 1988: although he would be Secretary-Designate of the Department of Transport and Communications from 1 September 1988.

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Mr A J Woods AO, presently Secretary, Department of Defence, will be retiring from the Public Service. The Government acknowledges the outstanding contribution Mr Woods has made over a long career in the public Service, including for many years at the Departmental Secretary level.

Dr P S Wilenski AO, presently Secretary of the Department of Transport and Communications, is to be appointed as Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, New York. He remains Secretary of the Department of Transport and Communications until 30 September and, following pre-posting consultations and leave, will take up his new appointment in January 1989.

Mr M J Cook, presently Director-General of the Office of National Assessments, is to be re-appointed to that position for a five-year term at the end of his present term in early July.