



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

28 September 1989

The Government has appointed Mr Roger Holdich as Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security for a period of three years.

Under legislation enacted by my Government following the recommendations of Mr Justice Hope, the Inspector-General occupies a pivotal position in ensuring the accountability of Australia's security and intelligence agencies; for example, he is able to conduct inquiries as a result of complaints from members of the public, at the request of a Minister or at his own initiative.

Mr Holdich, aged 55, is currently Deputy Public Service Commissioner. He has served the Government in a number of senior positions and, in 1986, conducted a major review of Australia's counter-terrorism capabilities and arrangements. A more detailed resume is attached.

Mr Holdich succeeds Mr Neil McInnes, who was Inspector-General for three years, and the first person to hold this position. He has played an important role in establishing the position as part of the Government's accountability mechanisms.

ROGER HOLDICH: CURRICULUM VITAE

Roger Holdich has worked for the Australian Government since 1952, in the Departments of Trade (8 years), Foreign Affairs (16 years), the Prime Minister and Cabinet (7 years), the Special Minister of State (4 years) and Administrative Services. He has served overseas in Pakistan, Thailand, Italy, Malaysia and the Republic of Korea, where he was Australian Ambassador.

From 1976 to 1983 he was responsible for providing advice to the Prime Minister on foreign and defence policy and intelligence and security matters. He joined the Department of the Special Minister of State as Deputy Secretary in May 1983. As the only Deputy Secretary of that Department he covered the full range of departmental activities. He was leader of the Commonwealth Delegation to the major National/State body for the coordination of counter-terrorism arrangements in Australia, and in 1986 he conducted a major review of Australia's counter-terrorism capabilities and arrangements which was subsequently accepted by the Commonwealth and all State/Territory Governments.

With the machinery of government changes in mid-1987, he became Deputy Secretary of the Department of Administrative Services. He was appointed Deputy Public Service Commissioner in 1988.

He has a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree from Adelaide University and has attended the Royal College of Defence Studies course in London. He was awarded a Senior Executive Service Fellowship in 1987 and attended the summer course for Senior Managers in Government at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. He is a member of Editorial Advisory Board for the Documents on Australian Foreign Policy series.

He acted as Secretary to the Department of the Special Minister of State on many occasions, totalling 40 weeks. He acted as Secretary to the Department of Administrative Services for three weeks.

Date of Birth: 26 August 1934