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**PRIME MINISTER**

59/93

**STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING, MP****DR PETER WILENSKI, AO**

As a result of treatment required for an illness, and in full consultation with him, Dr Peter Wilenski, AO, will relinquish his position as Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

While Dr Wilenski will be taking sick leave, he will continue to work with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. He will carry the title Commonwealth Government Adviser and, as available, will provide assistance on a range of issues in relation to the portfolio.

He will continue to serve on the Council of the Australian National Gallery.

Among numerous international, governmental, professional and academic positions, Dr Wilenski has served as Australian Ambassador to the United Nations, Secretary of the Departments of Transport and Communications, of Education and Youth Affairs, of Labour and Immigration, and as Chairman of the Public Service Board.

It is expected that Dr Wilenski will resume full duties at the end of this year. The Government will then appoint him to a position commensurate with his status, experience and the outstanding contribution he has made to public life and public administration.

Following appropriate consideration, the Government will announce soon a new appointment to the position of Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

**CANBERRA****14 May 1993**