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PRIME MINISTER

24/95

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING, MP DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL ASSESSMENTS

The Government has decided to recommend to the Governor-General in Executive Council the appointment of Mr Philip Flood AO, Director-General of the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB), as the next Director-General of the Office of National Assessments (ONA). It is proposed that the appointment will take effect on 24 April 1995.

Before being appointed Director-General of AIDAB, Mr Flood was Ambassador to Indonesia from 1989 to 1993. He was Deputy Secretary in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade from 1985 to 1989. Amongst other earlier appointments, Mr Flood was Chief Executive Officer for Special Trade Negotiations from 1978 to 1980. He was a member of the Administrative Review Council from 1986 to 1989, and headed a review of the Australian Customs Service and a review of the Schools Commission.

ONA is responsible for advising the Government on international political, strategic and economic developments affecting Australia's national interests. ONA also has an important function in advising the Government on the adequacy and coordination of Australia's foreign intelligence activities.

Mr Flood's substantial experience as a manager and his expertise in politico-strategic, trade and economic matters qualify him very well to give ONA strong leadership in providing accurate and timely assessments that will help the Government pursue Australia's political and economic interests in a rapidly changing regional and global environment.

I wish to record my appreciation to the outgoing Director-General of ONA, Mr Geoffrey Miller AO. Mr Miller has been Director-General since 1989, having agreed to extend his original term of office. Before becoming head of ONA, Mr Miller had a distinguished career in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade where he was Deputy Secretary from 1984 to 1986 and as Ambassador to the Republic of Korea from 1978 to 1980 and to Japan from 1986 to 1989. Mr Miller will be undertaking a new appointment which will be announced shortly.

CANBERRA
29 MARCH 1995