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**THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR TRADE
ACTING MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

MEDIA RELEASE

2 July 1997

**DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENT: AMBASSADOR TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF
YUGOSLAVIA**

The Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, Tim Fischer, today announced the appointment of Mr Christopher Lamb as Australian Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, with non-resident accreditation to Romania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Mr Lamb will replace Mr Noel Campbell.

Australia's relationship with the countries of accreditation is based on community ties and commercial links. With exports increasing to \$104 million in 1996, Romania has now surpassed Russia as our largest export market in Central and Eastern Europe and Australian investment there is also growing.

The Australian Embassy in Belgrade, in close co-operation with Austrade representatives in the region, is working to identify new opportunities for Australian trade and investment in all three countries of accreditation, and in particular Romania where the Government believes there is greatest scope for commercial development in the short to medium term. More modest potential has been identified in the other two countries. Central to the Australian Government's role in the region is a continued and concerted effort to eliminate impediments to fair trade.

Mr Lamb commenced work with the then Department of External Affairs (1968) in the Legal and Treaties Branch. After overseas postings in Australian Missions in Vienna, Rangoon and the United Nations New York, he was Minister in Bangkok as well as Permanent Representative to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) (1984-86), Ambassador to Myanmar (1986-89). He was then Minister in Washington (1989-92), with responsibility for Congressional Relations. In Canberra his assignments have included Acting Head, Public Information Office (1974), Director, Foreign Service Training (1975), Head, United Nations Political and Legal Sections (1980-83), Assistant Secretary, General Legal and Immigration Branch (1983). He has been the Department's Legal Adviser (including responsibility for Refugees Immigration and Asylum) since 1993.

Mr Lamb is a graduate of the Australian National University.

Mr Lamb is expected to take up his appointment in August 1997.