ALTERNATIVES FOR NATIONAL SERVICEMEN

Statement by the Minister for the Army, the Hon. Malcolm Fraser, M.P.

Some 2000 National Servicemen who were in the first Army intake in July 1965 will complete their two year period of full-time service on June 30. They will now become members of the Regular Army Reserve for a period of three years unless they decide to join the Citizen Military Forces or the Regular Army Emergency Reserve. Announcing this today, the Minister for the Army, Mr. Malcolm Fraser, said that while they were members of the Regular Army Reserve, National Servicemen would not, at present, be required to undertake further training but would be liable to be called up in time of war or Defence emergency.

As members of the Reserve they would be required to notify annually, in writing, their address or any change of address. National Servicemen who would otherwise be members of the Regular Army Reserve and who wished to maintain a more active link with the Army may volunteer to join the CMF.

If accepted, they would be required to serve for not less than three years, involving a 14 days camp and a number of home parades annually. Members of the CMF may only be called up for full-time service during war or a state of Defence emergency.

Alternatively, such National Servicemen may volunteer to serve with the Regular Army Emergency Reserve. If accepted, they would be required to serve for not less than four years involving a period of 14 days full-time training each year.

Members of the Emergency Reserve may be called up for service in advance of a proclaimed state of Defence emergency.

Some of those National Servicemen due to complete their full-time service this month had already indicated that they intended to apply to join the CMF or the RAER. If they would now prefer to join the Regular Army Reserve these National Servicemen would be given a chance to reconsider the position. The rest had the opportunity between now and June 30 to consider whether they would join the CMF or the RAER.

The high standard of service they had rendered the Army was a tribute to the calibre of the average National Serviceman and a particularly pleasing feature was their completely successful integration into the Regular Army.

Lists: A and B.

Further information:

CAVBERRA: Major E. Ross-Smith (65-4061) (49-6030)

OTHER TATES: ADPR AT COMMAND HEADQUARTERS

15 June 1967