

## RELATIONS WITH FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY:

Statement by the Minister for External Affairs, the Rt. Hon. R. G. Casey, 28th January, 1952.

The Minister for External Affairs, the Rt. Hon. R. G. Casey, announced today that Australia had agreed to an exchange of Embassies with the Federal Republic of Germany.

Mr. Casey said that, as distinct from the Australian Military Mission in Berlin, there is already an Australian Mission in Bonn, the capital of the Federal Republic, which has been accredited to the Allied High Commission in Germany since 1949. The effect of the present decision was that its status would now be changed to that of an Embassy accredited to the President of the Federal Republic.

Mr. Casey said that the change in the status of our Mission at Bonn reflected the extent to which Western Germany, in close association with the United Kingdom, the United States and other free nations on the Continent, is co-operating in maintaining stability in Europe. Future developments in Germany would have a significant influence on world peace, and it was desirable that Australia should be adequately represented there. Twenty other countries have already entered into diplomatic relations with the Federal Republic.

The first German Ambassador in Australia will be Dr. Walther Hess, a career diplomat who was suspended by the Nazi Government before the war. He joined the Foreign Office of the Federal Republic in January, 1950.

Mr. Casey said that for the time being Mr. Noel Deschamps, who has been acting head of the Australian Military Mission at Berlin and head of the Australian Mission at Bonn, will be Australian Charge d'Affaires.