



## **M e d i a   R e l e a s e**

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### **“R.G. Casey as Minister for External Affairs 1950-60, Fifty Years On”**

To commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the retirement of The Right Honourable R G Casey [Lord Casey] from politics and the post of Minister for External Affairs (1951-60), the Australian Institute of International Affairs (AIIA) is hosting an ‘R. G. Casey Forum’ at the Sir David Smith Meeting Rooms in the grounds of Government House Yarralumla on Tuesday 9 February 2010.

Lord Casey was one of Australia’s longest-serving Ministers for External Affairs/Foreign Affairs, serving in that post from April 1951 to January 1960. He served during a tumultuous period of Australia’s political history, with the escalating Cold War creating intense pressure. While much has been written on aspects of Australia’s responses to particular international events throughout this period, a definitive judgement of the efforts of Lord Casey as Minister for External Affairs has yet to be fully realised.

The forum entitled in full “R.G. Casey as Minister for External Affairs 1950-60, Fifty Years On” will bring together four academic appraisals of Lord Casey’s work and times, and a group of former distinguished diplomats from the era of the 1950s to discuss the challenges faced by Lord Casey and the Department of External Affairs (DEA) throughout the 1950s. In particular, his achievements in forging closer links with the then emerging nations of South-East Asia will be acknowledged.

The forum will also discuss the partnership of Lord and Lady Casey and their joint contributions to Australia’s national interests and affairs.

The forum is open only by invitation, however it will be video recorded by the Australian Public Affairs Channel (A-PAC), part of Sky News, for broadcasting at a future date, and a DVD is expected to be available. The AIIA also intends to publish a hard copy book of the proceedings

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