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BILL HAYDEN FOR GOVERNOR GENERAL

R. Metcalf VN 12/8/88

So it's "Goodbye" to Bill Hayden, Foreign Minister and "Hello" to a new Governor General of Australia.

A former public service clerk and policeman, Bill Hadyen has tended to be involved with some of politics more controversial activities during his 27 years in Parliament. As Minister for Social Security in the Whitlam Labor Government he brought Medibank to life much against expectations. While as Labor's last pre-1975 Treasurer he was engaged in making some not entirely socialist economic decisions until the government was dismissed.

In 1977 after one one unsuccessful challenge to Whitlam he became leader of a demoralised Labor Party, but had brought it back to winning form in time for the advent of Robert L. Hawke. All good training for his last five-and-a-half years as Australia's Foreign Minister.

At first sight the impact of that ministry on Australia's relations with Vietnam and the other countries of Indochina would not appear to be great. At a bilateral level it is a disgrace that aid and trade between Australia and Vietnam should only now be starting to expand. But if you accept the dictates of diplomacy and 'spheres of influence' it must be admitted that Bill Hayden's approach towards rapprochement with Vietnam was undiplomatically straightfoward. His June 1983 visit to Hanoi was a great shock to ASEAN. But today ASEAN invites Vietnam round for

cocktails and the no-man's-land between the two groups which once Bill criss-crossed alone is getting crowded with even China moving to join in. So, never one of the crowd, our Bill is off to try his hand at something new.

For those of you who may have missed the Ministerial shuffle following Hayden's retirement, the new Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade is Senator Gareth Evans. Senator Robert Ray has Immigration Local Government and Ethnic Affairs. □