

commissioner to retire

THE Australian Federal Police Commissioner Ronald Grey announced in August he had advised the Government in July that he would be completing his term as Commissioner on February 16, 1988.

Commissioner Grey was a career Army officer before taking up his appointment on February 15, 1983. In August 1980, Major General Grey was appointed General Officer Commanding Field Force Command with responsibilities for all of the Army field units both regular and reserve throughout Australia. In late 1982 he was requested to assume the position of Commissioner of the AFP. He resigned from the Australian Regular Army after 35 years service where he saw action in Korea, Borneo and South Vietnam.

Commissioner Grey took up a five year appointment which concludes on February, 16, 1988. He is the second AFP Commissioner, the first being Sir Colin Woods who was appointed at the formation of the AFP in October 1979.

Commissioner Grey was born on July 2, 1930 and received his secondary education at the Perth Modern School, from 1943 to 1947 before entering the Royal Military College, Duntroon, in February 1948, and graduating in December 1951 as a Lieutenant.

He served with the 3rd Battalion, RAR, in Korea as a rifle platoon commander and was twice wounded. He served in Japan and returned to Australia in 1954. In 1965 he served in Borneo with Headquarters 17 Gurka Division for a year and was Mentioned in Despatches. He was then Chief Instructor of the Battle Wing, Jungle Training Centre at Canungra before undertaking a number of short term duties to South Vietnam in 1964, 1965, 1968 and 1969.

He commanded the 7th Battalion, RAR, from November 1968 to May 1971, including one year in 1970 in South Vietnam. For services there he was made a Companion of the Distinguished Ser-

vice Order and awarded the Cross of Gallantry with a Palm by the Republic of Vietnam.

He was the Australian Army Representative in London from October 1973 to January 1977 receiving promotion to Brigadier in October 1975. He was promoted to Major General as Chief of Operations — Army in June 1978. He



has travelled extensively in South East Asia and Europe.

In addition to becoming Commissioner of the AFP, he has held the appointment of Chairman of the Management Committee of the Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence for a year and also led the Australian delegation to the General Assemblies of Interpol since 1984. He has made police liaison and operational visits throughout Europe and the USA as well as South East Asia. In May 1987 he became the first Australian Police Commissioner to make an official visit to the People's Republic of China.

Commissioner Grey advised Senator Michael Tate, the Parliamentary Secretary for Justice, on July 24, that he would not be seeking to continue and would not be available for reappointment or extension.

He said 'Much has been done since the formation of the AFP, but there is still a need for leadership and management of a strength and quality to continue achievement. The additional responsibilities which have been placed on the AFP since 1983, due to the extent and gravity of crime in Australia, are relevant. Policing through the last years of the 1980s and beyond is multi-disciplined in character and increasingly specialist in nature.

'It is true that very many professional decisions are still regularly made at the level of Commissioner, as the AFP continues to develop its middle and upper rank command skills and management techniques.'

Commissioner Grey said that police co-operation in the South West Pacific and South East Asia was of great importance to Australia and was becoming more so. International crime recognised no boundaries.

He said the selection of a replacement Commissioner would be an important decision, particularly in view of the increasingly importance of the international policing role of the AFP, and he would be happy to offer an opinion as to that appointment if the Government wished.

'I have already been Commissioner of the AFP for longer than the duration of the First World War,' Commissioner Grey said. 'There has been considerable achievement over the past five years, including a firm foundation and organisational structure upon which to build for the future. Training is now progressive and developmental with high standards and validation. The destructive factionalism inherited from the original components from which the AFP was formed, has largely disappeared. There is now good and generally amicable industrial participation and co-operation. The job now wants a new hand and a new eye.'