

NOTES FOR ADDRESS AT THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB
on the occasion of the presentation of the
CANADIAN AWARD FOR JOURNALISTIC MERIT in
reporting on international affairs in the
Pacific Region, December 14, 1979

It gives me much pleasure to present the Canadian Award for Journalistic Merit in reporting on international affairs in the Pacific region to Mr. Bruce Juddery of the Canberra Times.

This is the third successive years in which the award has been in existence.

The previous winners of the award were both from The Age newspaper in Melbourne - Mr. Michael Richardson in 1977 and Mr. Tony Walker in 1978.

In a world troubled by sharp differences in opinion between peoples and states the media play an important role in influencing the attitudes of those in government and the vast populations of the world.

The recent events in Pakistan serve as a telling example of the havoc that can be created through inaccurate reports published or broadcast by the media. It is comforting to know that in both Canada and Australia, for all the criticisms we hear, we are served by media which attempt to present the factual reports about situations both abroad and at home.

Bruce Juddery has made major contributions in reporting situations both within Australia and overseas and in particular, in Canada. His analyses of the Canadian political scene - recent Canadian elections, the issues surrounding Quebec and the so-called sovereignty association - are good examples of the depth and quality of Bruce Juddery's work. His thoughtful and penetrating analysis of issues affecting the Commonwealth public service are widely read, and are of interest in Canada as well as Australia.

On behalf of the Canadian Government and the National Press Club I would like to present you with this soapstone carving.

There is, of course, some symbolism in the selection of this gift. It is sometimes wrongly alleged that seals are an endangered species. The Newfoundland sealers maintain that they are the endangered species. Be that as it may, there is no doubt that good journalists are an endangered species, and it is with great pleasure therefore that I present this 'seal of approval' to someone who is so widely recognized as a first-class journalist. In due course Bruce Juddery's name will be added to the perpetual award which is housed at the National Press Club. In addition the Canadian Department of External Affairs will be providing you, Bruce, with a tour of Canada

during late January and early February and I am sure that during the course of that visit you will have an opportunity to develop an even deeper understanding of the Canadian people and our way of life.