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HON. SIR ROGER DOUGLAS

Roger Douglas, as Finance Minister in New Zealand from 1984-1988, designed and implemented a swift and wide-ranging liberalisation of the New Zealand economy. 'EuroMoney' magazine chose him as Finance Minister of the Year for 1985, in recognition of the speed and scope of his reforms.

Roger Douglas formulated and refined his reform programme while his Labour Party was in opposition from 1975 - 1984. He developed an approach designed to ensure that systematic structural reform would be accompanied by political success. In 1987, his Labour Party was returned to power for a second term with an increased majority.

Roger Douglas was a Member of New Zealand Parliament for more than 20 years. He first became a government minister in 1973. In October 1990 he retired from Parliament to develop international interests which he had been unable to pursue as an M.P.

After the New Zealand 1990 general election, Roger Douglas established his own company which consults internationally on corporatisation and privatisation, and the wider issues that facilitate political, economic and social success in such programmes. He was also appointed to the company Board of Brierley Investments and as Deputy Chairman of the Tasman Institute (Melbourne).

The New Zealand approach to the corporatisation and privatisation of state trading activities has succeeded beyond question. It has transformed the efficiency of sectors which are crucial to the performance of the economy as a whole and, at the same time, significantly reduced government debt.

A great deal has been learned in the New Zealand experience. In this respect, Roger Douglas's skills and experience are uncommon, and possibly unique.

Roger Douglas now speaks and consults extensively based upon his Parliamentary and Corporate experience.