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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 1963

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, announced today the appointment of Mr. Robert A.D. Ford as Ambassador to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Mr. Ford, who is at present Ambassador to the United Arab Republic, succeeds Mr. Arnold C. Smith who will be returning to duty in the Department as an Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs. Mr. Ford's successor will be announced in due course.

Robert Arthur Douglas Ford was born in Ottawa on January 8, 1915, and was educated at the University of Western Ontario and Cornell University. He was appointed to the History Department of Cornell University in 1938 and joined the Department of External Affairs in 1940. He was named Third Secretary at Rio de Janeiro in 1941 and in 1946 was appointed Second Secretary to the Office of the Canadian High Commissioner in London. In 1951 he was appointed Chargé d'Affaires a.i. at Moscow and upon his return to Ottawa in 1954 he became Head of the Department's European Division. He was appointed Ambassador to Colombia in 1957, and Ambassador to Yugoslavia in 1959. He has been serving as Ambassador in the United Arab Republic since 1961.

During the course of his professional career, Mr. Ford has maintained a lively interest in the field of linguistics and literature. He is the author of "A Window on the North", for which he was awarded the Governor General's medal for Poetry in 1956, and other poems. He has also translated into English poetry from the French, Portuguese, and Russian languages.

Mr. Ford is married.