



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 1956

His Excellency Livingston T. Merchant presented today to His Excellency the Governor General his Letter of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Canada. The ceremony of presentation took place at Government House.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson, was present on this occasion. The Chief of Protocol Mr. E. D'Arcy McGreer, presented the Ambassador to the Governor General. The Ambassador was accompanied by members of the United States Embassy in Ottawa. Mr. Lionel Massey and Mr. J.F. Delaute, respectively, Secretary and Administrative Secretary to the Governor General, were also present.

Mr. Merchant was born in New York on November 23, 1903. After graduation from Princeton University in 1926, he joined an investment company and became a partner in the firm in 1930. In 1942, he left private business to accept an appointment as Assistant Chief of the Division of Defense Materials in the Department of State. Following assignments as Chief of the Eastern Hemisphere Division and the War Areas Economics Divisions of the Department of State, Mr. Merchant was named Economic Counselor (with the personal rank of Minister) at the United States Embassy, Paris, in October 1945.

In November 1946, Mr. Merchant became Chief of the Aviation Division of the Department of State, and in October 1947 he was named Acting Deputy Director (later Deputy Director) of the Office of Transport and Communications. In September 1949, he was made Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs. In November 1951, he became special assistant for Mutual Security Affairs and in March 1952 he went to Paris as Deputy to the U.S. Special Representative in Europe, with the personal rank of Ambassador. On March 11, 1953, Mr. Merchant was appointed Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs.

Mr. Merchant is married and the father of two daughters and a son.
