

On June 12, 1942, Mr. King announced in the House that "The Canadian Government have come to the conclusion that it is desirable to establish a Canadian Legation in the U.S.S.R. on a reciprocal basis, and we have now been informed that the Soviet Government accept the Canadian Government's proposal and that they desire to establish a Legation in Canada. We understand that the Soviet government will also establish a consulate at Halifax." An agreement for the exchange of diplomatic Missions between Canada and the U.S.S.R. was signed in London on June 12, 1942.⁽¹⁾

On November 4, 1942, the appointment of Mr. L. Dana Wilgress as Canadian Minister to the U.S.S.R. was announced. He had long been one of the ablest of the Canadian Trade Commissioners, had served in many posts and had travelled extensively as an inspector of Canadian trade posts; before the war he had served in Vladivostock as Trade Commissioner, learned Russian, and married a Russian lady, a member of the Old Regime.*

In March, 1943, Mr. Wilgress opened the Legation in Kuibyshev, the temporary seat of government of the U.S.S.R., but he proceeded to Moscow in April to present his credentials. He was joined a few weeks later by R.M. Macdonnell as First Secretary, Arnold C. Smith and J.A. McCordick as Third Secretaries, Brig. H. Lefebvre as Military Attaché, and Maj. G.J. Okulitch as Assistant Military Attaché.

(1) H. of C. Debates, February 12, 1942, p. 3302. Canada Treaty Series, 1942. No.12.

* He had formerly been director of Commercial Intelligence (1932) and Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce (1940). After serving in the U.S.S.R. he was Minister to Switzerland, opening the new Legation in Berne; High Commissioner in the United Kingdom (1949), Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs (1952-53), and Ambassador to NATO in Paris.