

# PRESS RELEASE



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## W. K. WARDROPER APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

The Secretary of State for External Affairs announced today that at the inaugural meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank held in Tokyo from November 24 to 26, Mr. W. K. Wardroper of the Department of External Affairs was elected a Director of the Bank for a two-year term. Mr. Wardroper as one of the three Directors elected from non-regional charter members of the Bank will represent Canada, Britain, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden. Seven Directors were elected from among the regional members of the Bank.

Mr. Wardroper is a native of Duncan, British Columbia, and joined the Department of External Affairs in June of 1947. He has held a number of diplomatic posts abroad and until his election as a Director of the Asian Development Bank was Deputy-Head of the Economic Division in the Department of External Affairs in Ottawa. Mr. Wardroper is married and has two children.

The Canadian Governor and Alternate Governor for the Bank are the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, Minister of Finance and Mr. Maurice F. Strong, Director General of the External Aid Office. In his statement to the Governors, Mr. Strong, representing Canada, indicated that Canada welcomed the opportunity to join with Asian countries in a major new endeavour to promote economic development in Asia and hoped to increase the effectiveness of the financial resources being made available by Canada for development assistance by channelling part of them through the Asian Development Bank. Canada had given special emphasis to Asia in its aid programmes and since joining the Colombo Plan as a founding member has provided more than \$800 million in assistance to the region. The Canadian Government, which has already made a capital subscription of \$25 million to the bank, hopes to work out arrangements at an early date relating to the administration by the bank of Canadian aid funds to be provided within the framework of Canada's aid programme. These funds would serve to supplement the financial resources available to the bank from capital contributions.