



# PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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The Secretary of State for External Affairs today announced that the Hon. W.F.A. Turgeon, P.C., Q.C., Canadian Ambassador to Ireland and Minister to Portugal, will be transferred to Lisbon with the rank of Ambassador. It was announced on February 9 that the Portuguese Government and the Government of Canada had decided to raise to the status of Embassies their Legations in Ottawa and Lisbon.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs also announced the retirement of Mr. Emile Vaillancourt, Canadian Ambassador to Peru. Appointments of successors to Mr. Turgeon as Ambassador to Ireland and to Mr. Vaillancourt will be announced at a later date.

Mr. Turgeon was born at Petit Rocher, N.B., and is a graduate of the Universities of Laval and New Brunswick. He served as Attorney General for Saskatchewan from 1907 to 1921 when he was appointed to the Court of Appeal of Saskatchewan. In 1938 he became Chief Justice. Mr. Turgeon has held various diplomatic posts during the last fifteen years. He was successively Minister to Argentina and Chile, Ambassador to Mexico, and Ambassador to Belgium and Minister to Luxembourg. He was appointed High Commissioner to Ireland in 1946 and later Ambassador. In 1952 he assumed the additional function of Canadian Minister to Portugal. Mr. Turgeon has been Chairman of several Royal Commissions of Enquiry in Canada and has attended numerous international conferences. He is a widower and has four children. Mr. Turgeon is expected to take up his new duties in the near future.

Mr. Emile Vaillancourt was born in Montreal and is a graduate of St. Marie College. In 1935 he was appointed first Director General of Tourism for the Province of Quebec and in 1939 became Director of the Montreal Tourist and Convention Bureau. During World War II he was a Director of the Health League of Canada. Prior to his appointment as Canadian Ambassador to Peru in 1950, Mr. Vaillancourt served as Canadian Minister to Cuba from 1945 to 1948 and as Canadian Minister to Yugoslavia from 1948 to 1950. In 1949 he served as Canadian Delegate to the Geneva Conference for the Establishment of International Conventions for the Protection of War Victims. He is the author of a number of works on Canadian history. Mr. Vaillancourt is a widower and has four children. Mr. Vaillancourt is expected to leave Lima early in April.

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