

LEOLYN DANA WILGRESS

Mr. Wilgress was born in Vancouver, B.C., on October 20, 1892. He received his early education in Japan and Vancouver and attended McGill University.

Mr. Wilgress entered the Commercial Intelligence Service of the Department of Trade and Commerce in 1914 and from then until 1932, he served as Trade Commissioner in Omsk, Vladivostock, Bucharest, Milan, London, Hamburg and Athens. He was a member of the Canadian Economic Mission to Siberia in 1919 and in 1921 investigated trade opportunities with the Soviet Union.

Mr. Wilgress was appointed Director of the Commercial Intelligence Service, Ottawa, in 1932, and Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce in 1940. He served as an adviser at the Imperial Economic Conference, Ottawa, 1932, and at the World Economic Conference, London, 1933. He was also a member of the Canadian Trade Mission to South Africa in 1941.

In 1942, Mr. Wilgress was appointed Canadian Minister to the U.S.S.R. and in 1944 Ambassador, remaining in Moscow until 1947. He served as Minister to Switzerland, 1947-49, and as High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, 1949-52. He returned to Ottawa in 1952 to take up his duties as Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Mr. Wilgress was a member of the Foreign Exchange Control Board, 1939, the Advisory Economic Committee, 1940, and he attended many international conferences, including: the United Nations Conference on International Organization, San Francisco, 1945; General Assemblies of the United Nations, London, 1945 and 1946, New York, 1946, Paris, 1948; Peace Conference, Paris, 1946; United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment, Havana, 1947; General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade Conference, Annecy, 1949, Geneva, 1950, and Torquay, 1950; meetings of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers and Finance Ministers, London, 1949; meeting of the North Atlantic Defence, Financial and Economic Committees, London, 1950; meeting to discuss Japanese Peace Settlement, London, 1950; meeting of the North Atlantic Council Deputies, London, 1950; joint session of the North Atlantic Council and Defence Committee, Brussels, 1950; meetings of the North Atlantic Council, New York, 1950, Ottawa, 1951, Rome, 1951, and Lisbon, 1952.

Mr. Wilgress is married to the former Olga Buergin. They have two children.

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