



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

NO 53

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, JULY 5, 1960

THE NEWLY APPOINTED HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA, HIS EXCELLENCY WILLEM DIRKSE-VAN-SCHALKWYK, THIS MORNING MADE HIS FIRST CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER, THE RIGHT HONOURABLE JOHN G. DIEFENBAKER. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DR. C. B. H. FINCHAM, FIRST SECRETARY AND WAS INTRODUCED BY THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, MR. PH. THIBAUT.

MR. VAN SCHALKWYK, WHO WAS BORN IN 1907 HAS HELD MANY IMPORTANT POSITIONS IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL SERVICE WHICH HE JOINED IN 1929. IN 1938-1944 HE SERVED IN OTTAWA AS AN ATTACHE TO THE OFFICE OF THE UNIONS ACCREDITED REPRESENTATIVE TO CANADA; HE HAS ALSO BEEN POSTED IN BERLIN, WASHINGTON, LEOPOLDVILLA, HAMBURG AND LONDON. IN 1935 AND 1936 MR. VAN SCHALKWYK WAS SECRETARY OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATION TO THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND IN 1947 WAS AN ALTERNATE DELEGATE TO THE UNITED NATIONS.

MR. VAN SCHALKWYK WAS ACCOMPANIED TO OTTAWA BY HIS WIFE. THEY HAVE TWO SONS.