



PRESS RELEASE

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

NO. 25

FOR RELEASE AT 11 A.M., MARCH 18.

March 18, 1948.

The Department of External Affairs today announced the composition of the Canadian delegation to the United Nations Conference on Freedom of Information and of the Press which opens in Geneva, Switzerland, on March 23. All members of the United Nations have been invited to participate in the Conference which will have the task of formulating views concerning the rights, obligations and practices which should be included in the concept of freedom of information.

The provisional agenda for the Conference, which was established by the Economic and Social Council, calls for a general discussion on the principles of freedom of information and consideration of certain fundamental principles to which media of information should have regard in performing their basic functions of gathering, transmitting and disseminating news and information without fetters. Study will be given to measures to facilitate the gathering of information, the international transmission of information, and concerning the free publication and reception of information.

Recommendations on these subjects have been made to the Conference by the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press, which has held two sessions at Lake Success. The first session of the Sub-Commission was held from May 19 to June 4, 1947, and the second, January 19 to February 3, 1948. Mr. G. V. Ferguson, editor of the Montreal Star, who attended the two sessions of the Sub-Commission in an individual capacity played a prominent role in both sessions.

The Canadian delegation will be composed as follows:

Jean Desy, K.C., Canadian Minister in Italy.

Mr. Desy, born in Montreal, was formerly Professor of International and Constitutional Law and Political History at the University of Montreal. He joined the Department of External Affairs in 1925. Prior to his appointment as Canadian Minister in Italy, he served as Canadian Ambassador in Brazil. Mr. Desy has represented Canada on numerous international conferences and was senior adviser to the Canadian delegation at the San Francisco Conference in 1945.

Delegates

Arthur Ford, Editor-in-Chief of the London Free Press, London, Ontario.

Mr. Ford is a native of Point Edward, Ontario, and a graduate of Victoria College of the University of Toronto. Having worked on newspapers in Stratford, Ottawa, New York, Winnipeg and Toronto he was assistant to the Canadian correspondent of The Times of London before joining the London Free Press. In 1942 he headed a group of Canadian newspapermen who visited Australia and New Zealand on a goodwill tour. Mr. Ford "covered" the

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