

ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHER

The Commissioner for the Royal Visit has announced that Donald Charles McKague, camera portraitist of Toronto, has been commissioned by the Canadian Government to take official portraits in colour of Her Majesty The Queen and Prince Philip.

Portraits in advance of the 1959 tour of Canada will be required and Her Majesty approved the selection of a Canadian photographer for the purpose. Mr. McKague was chosen after careful consideration of the requirements and availability for the assignment.

Mr. McKague has left by air for London, where he will make arrangements for the sittings. He will do the processing of the portraits in London and present the finished prints to the Queen and Prince Philip for their approval. Details concerning the release and distribution of these photographs will be announced at a later date.

Mr. McKague's work has been recognized by four first awards in the annual show of the Ontario Society of Photographers (1955), a world competition; and the Gaeverd Medal for print quality in 1955, 1956 and 1957.

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AGREEMENT WITH FINLAND

The Department of External Affairs announced last week that Canada and Finland have concluded an agreement modifying their visa requirements for temporary visitors.

Beginning January 1, 1959, Canadian citizens who are bona fide non-immigrants (visitors, not seeking employment or permanent residence) and who are in possession of valid Canadian passports, may, without obtaining Finnish visas, visit Finland for periods not exceeding three months. This period of three months is reduced by the combined total of any period or periods of stay in Finland, Denmark, Norway and Sweden in the six-month period prior to the date of entry to Finland. Where a visit to Finland exceeds three months, or the combined period of visits to all four countries exceeds three months, Canadian citizens will be granted residence permits, free of charge, for an extension of stay in Finland.

Finnish citizens, who are bona fide non-immigrants and who are in possession of valid Canadian passports, will be granted at the Canadian legation in Helsinki, visas, free of charge, valid for an unlimited number of entries to Canada during a period of twelve months from the date of issue of such visas.

This agreement in no way exempts Canadian or Finnish citizens from the necessity of complying with the immigration and residence regulations of Finland and Canada.

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ARCHITECTURAL AWARDS

The Massey Architectural Awards for 1958 were presented at the National Gallery in Ottawa on December 5. In the absence of the Governor General, Mr. Howard Green, Minister of Public Works, and Acting Prime Minister, made the presentations - two of which went to Masseys.

The gold medal, highest prize for Canadian architecture, was awarded to Mr. Robert Fairfield and Mr. C.E.T. Rounthwaite of Toronto for the design of the Stratford Festival Theatre. Ottawa buildings won two of the eight silver medals, as the best in their respective classes: the City Hall designed by Rother, Bland and Trudeau of Montreal and the Hog's Back Park Buildings designed by Mr. Hart Massey. A silver medal was shared by Mr. Geoffrey Massey, son of Raymond Massey, the actor, and Professor Arthur Erickson of the University of British Columbia for the design of Mr. Massey's house in West Vancouver. The largest number of awards were won by John R. Parkin and associates of Toronto.

Mr. Green paid a tribute to the Governor General, where he said that Mr. Massey had done more than anyone to encourage the arts in Canada.

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NATO DELEGATION

Mr. Sidney Smith, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. George Pearkes, the Minister of National Defence and Mr. R. O'Hurley, the Minister of Defence Production left by air on December 10 for Paris where they will attend NATO Ministerial meetings from December 16-18. They will be joined by Mr. Donald Fleming, the Minister of Finance.

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NEW POLICY FOR NATO FORCE

Army Headquarters has decided to adopt a three-year cycle of rotation for troops serving with Canada's NATO force in Germany. The new policy will mean a three-year term of duty in Germany in place of the present two-year tour.

Final development of the new plan calls for the rotation of one third of the Canadian brigade group each year. As a result, a majority of the troops in the brigade will always be familiar with, and accustomed to, the area in which they operate. Another advantage of this policy will be a substantial drop in the cost of transporting troops to and from Europe.

Administrative personnel and troops serving with service units in the overseas brigade will be rotated on a man-for-man basis.

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