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DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENT

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mark MacGuigan, announces the following appointment:

The Honourable Edgar J. Benson (59) originally from Cobourg, Ontario, to be Ambassador to Ireland.

Mr. Benson (B.Comm., Queen's University; F.C.A., Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario; L.L.D., Royal Military College) was a partner in the chartered accountant firm of England, Leonard, Macpherson and Company in Kingston from 1952-64 and an Assistant Professor of Commerce at Queen's University. He was elected to Parliament as the member for Kingston and the Islands in 1962. Following the 1963 general election, he was appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance. In 1964 he was appointed as Minister of National Revenue and reappointed to this portfolio following the 1965 general election. In October 1966 he was also appointed as President of the Treasury Board. In January 1968 he relinquished the post of Minister of National Revenue, retaining the portfolio of President of the Treasury Board, as well as assuming responsibility as Minister in charge of Housing. Appointment as Minister of Finance came in April 1968, when he also retained the portfolio of President of the Treasury Board but relinquished the responsibility as Minister in charge of Housing. He was reappointed Minister of Finance following the June 1968 general election. In January 1972 he was appointed Minister of National Defence. He resigned from the Cabinet and the House of Commons on August 31, 1972, and was appointed President of the Canadian Transport Commission effective September 1, 1972, a position he has held until the present. Mr. Benson will be replacing Mr. A.W. Sullivan whose next appointment will be announced later.