



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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The Department of External Affairs announced today that Lt.-General Maurice Pope, C.B., M.C., is being appointed the first Canadian Ambassador to Spain. The Department also announced that Mr. Jules Léger is being appointed Canadian Ambassador to Mexico.

General Pope, who has been Canadian Ambassador to Belgium and Minister to Luxembourg since late in 1950, will take up his new post in early December. Mr. Léger, who has been Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs since 1951, will take up his post shortly. He will succeed Mr. Charles Hébert whose new appointment will be announced subsequently.

General Pope was born at Rivière-du-Loup, P.Q., and educated at McGill University. In 1915, he joined the Canadian Army with which force he served for thirty years. He saw action in the First World War, and during the last war he held various senior staff appointments, including that of Chairman, Joint Staff Mission, Washington, and staff officer to the Prime Minister and military secretary to the Cabinet War Committee. In 1945 he was named Head of the Canadian Military Mission in Berlin and in 1950 was appointed Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany at Bonn. Later in the same year he was appointed Ambassador to Belgium and Minister to Luxembourg, which positions he now relinquishes to take up his new appointment.

Mr. Léger was born at St. Anicet, P.Q., in 1913, and was educated at the University of Montreal and the University of Paris. He served on the editorial staff of the newspaper, *Le Droit*, Ottawa, from 1938 to 1940 and was appointed Assistant Press Censor in 1940. He joined the Department of External Affairs in 1940 and three years later was posted to the Canadian Legation in Chile. He remained there until 1947 when he was transferred to Canada House, London. In 1949 he returned to Ottawa and was seconded to the Prime Minister's office where he served until 1950, when he returned to the Department of External Affairs and was appointed Head of the European Division. In 1951 he was made Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs.