



The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, today announced the establishment of diplomatic relations with Syria, and the concurrent accreditation as first Canadian Ambassador to Syria of Mr. John Ryerson Maybee, Canadian Ambassador to Lebanon and Jordan.

Mr. Martin also announced the appointment of Mr. Georges Henri Blouin, at present Counsellor at the Canadian Embassy in Brussels, as Canadian Ambassador to the Cameroun, succeeding Mr. Fulgence Charpentier.

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Mr. Maybee was born in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, on August 29, 1918 and was educated at the University of Toronto and at Princeton. After being discharged from the Royal Canadian Navy in 1946, Mr. Maybee joined the Department of External Affairs and has served at posts abroad in Nanking, Canberra and Washington. In 1958, Mr. Maybee was appointed Counsellor at the Canadian Embassy in Washington. His appointment as Canadian Ambassador to Lebanon and Jordan was announced on June 5, 1964, and December 23, 1964 respectively.

Mr. Maybee is married and has five children.

Mr. Blouin was born in Montreal on June 4, 1921, and is a graduate of the Collège Ste. Marie and the University of Montreal. Mr. Blouin worked in the Income Tax Division of the Department of National Revenue in Montreal, prior to joining the Department of External Affairs in 1949. He has served in Canadian diplomatic missions in New Delhi from 1951 to 1952 and in San Francisco, where he was Consul from 1955 to 1958. He served as Counsellor in Athens from 1961 to 1963, and in Brussels from 1963 to the present time.

Mr. Blouin is married and has two children.