

PRESS RELEASE



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The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Howard Green, announced today that Mr. Léon Mayrand, who was recently appointed Ambassador to Argentina, will, like his predecessor, be concurrently accredited as Ambassador to Uruguay and Paraguay.

Mr. Mayrand was born in Montreal in 1905. He studied at the University of Montreal, the University of Paris and the London School of Economics. Mr. Mayrand served in Montreal on the editorial staff of "La Patrie" in 1933-34 and joined the Department of External Affairs in 1934. In the following years, he served abroad in London, Rio de Janeiro and Moscow.

In 1949 Mr. Mayrand was appointed Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs and in 1951 he became Canadian Ambassador to Chile. When the International Supervisory Commissions in Indochina came into being in 1954, Mr. Mayrand became Canada's first Commissioner in Laos. In 1956 he was appointed Ambassador to Spain and in 1958 assumed his duties as Ambassador to Italy.

When the International Supervisory Commission for Laos was re-activated in 1961, Mr. Mayrand was again asked to assume the role of Canadian Commissioner. Mr. Mayrand served at this post until his recent replacement by Mr. Paul A. Bridle. Mr. Mayrand's appointment as Ambassador to Argentina was announced on November 16.

Mr. Mayrand is married and has three children.