



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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The Department of External Affairs announced today that the Governments of Canada and Lebanon have agreed to exchange diplomatic representatives at an early date with a view to developing the bonds of friendship between the two countries which have, during recent years, become closer through common membership in the United Nations and specialized agencies.

It is planned to open the Canadian Legation in Beirut within the next two months. During the absences of the Minister, who will also be accredited as head of the Canadian mission in Cairo, a senior officer of the Department of External Affairs will act as Charge d'Affaires ad interim. The Canadian Government Trade Commissioner in Beirut will be attached to the Legation with the rank of Commercial Secretary. Lebanon, now represented in Canada by a Consul General, will open a Legation in Ottawa.

It is hoped that this step will help to promote trade between the two countries as well as other economic, social and cultural interests which they have in common.
