

China

The first Canadian Minister to China, Major-General Victor W. Odlum, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., who had previously served as High Commissioner to Australia, arrived in Chungking, the war-time capital, on April 30, 1943. The sudden illness of President Lin Sen prevented him from presenting his Letters of Credence on May 11, as had been planned. When it was realized subsequently that the President's illness would prove fatal, it was decided that the credentials should be transmitted to the President through the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. K.C. Wu.

The officers of the Legation were Dr. G.S. Patterson, an orientalist who had been with the Y.M.C.A. in the Far East for over twenty years, as Counsellor; Ralph E. Collins, China-born, as Third Secretary; Brigadier O.M. Kay, E.D., (who arrived in September), as Assistant Military Attaché. Dr. Leslie G. Kilborn, a Canadian scholar and Dean of the Medical School of West China Union University, assisted the Legation in the initial period of its establishment as interpreter.

In December, 1943, it was announced that the Governments of Canada and China had agreed to elevate their respective Legations to the rank of Embassy. (1)

In addition to the foregoing examples of the opening of full diplomatic representation, there were temporary contacts established with the "orphaned" Danish colony of Greenland and the Free French colonies of St. Pierre and Miquelon, and also a mission created in Portugal and Venezuela. These were Consulates, not full diplomatic Missions, and are described in a separate chapter. In a general sense, however, they marked a fuller Canadian official representation abroad.

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(1) External Affairs Annual Report, 1943.