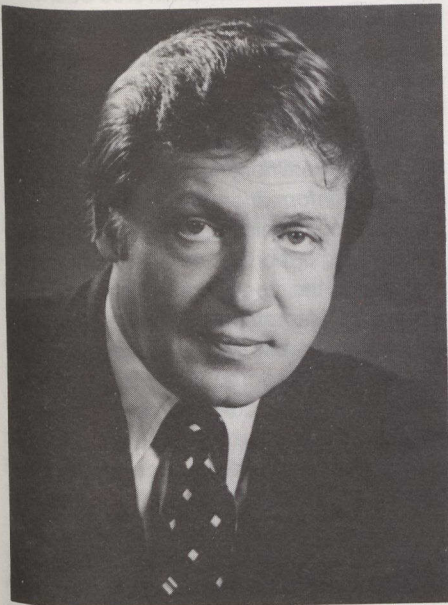


High commissioner for London



Roland Roy McMurtry

Former Ontario Attorney-General Roland Roy McMurtry has been appointed Canadian high commissioner to Britain. In the announcement of the appointment, External Affairs Minister Joe Clark said Mr. McMurtry would assume his duties in the spring.

Mr. McMurtry, 51, said in a statement released by his Queen's Park office that "there can be no greater public service than to represent one's country in one of the major capitals of the world".

Born in Toronto, Ontario, Mr. McMurtry was educated in the city at Trinity College, the University of Toronto and Osgoode Hall Law School. He was called to the Bar of Ontario in 1958 and, from 1958 to 1975, was a partner in the law firm of Benson, McMurtry, Percival and Brown. He was appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1970.

Political background

In 1975, Mr. McMurtry was elected to the Ontario Legislature as member of the provincial parliament (MPP) for Eglinton; he was re-elected in 1977 and 1981. Mr. McMurtry was appointed to his most recent position as attorney general for Ontario in 1975. From 1978 to 1982 he held the additional portfolio of solicitor general for Ontario.

Mr. McMurtry resigned from politics on February 1 after an unsuccessful bid for the leadership of the Ontario Conservative Party on January 26. His appointment as high commissioner was announced on February 5. He replaces Don Jamieson, 63, a former Liberal Cabinet minister who was appointed high commissioner in January, 1983 by former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau.

Task force to develop trade with United States

A newly formed Task Force on Canada-United States Trade Policy, has been established on the initiative of senior private sector executives, representing the broad spectrum of Canadian producers, exporters and importers of manufactured goods, agricultural and fishery products and services. More than 40 senior executives are involved.

Task force chairman David I.W. Braide said the purpose of the group is to participate actively in the development of an appropriate trade policy between Canada and the United States, with a view to enhancing the international competitiveness of industry and to promoting job creation.

Mr. Braide added that "the Task Force will accomplish this by acting in an advisory capacity to Canadian governments, in co-operation with trade and other associations and with individual firms, includ-

ing those electing to present their views directly to government".

Minister for International Trade James Kelleher met with representatives in Ottawa for an initial exchange of views on the discussion paper *How to Secure and Enhance Canadian Access to Export Markets*, which was released on January 29. (See *Canada Weekly*, March 13, 1985.)

He welcomed the formation of the Task Force and said the initial discussion with the members was very useful. Mr. Kelleher added that he would be proceeding in March and April, with consultations in major Canadian centres with business, labour and consumer groups, on the basis of the discussion paper. "I will discuss the results of consultations with provincial governments and work with them in charting basic trade policy directions for Canada," he said.

Commonwealth Caribbean-Canada conference

In his first international conference, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney met with leaders of the Commonwealth countries of the Caribbean in Kingston, Jamaica, February 24-26.

Prime Minister Edward Seaga of Jamaica, who initiated the meeting when he met Mr. Mulroney in Ottawa last September, hosted the 17-country Caribbean-Canada summit. The two-day meeting provided an opportunity for Mr. Mulroney and other new leaders of the Commonwealth countries of the Caribbean to become acquainted with each other. The agenda was general but it included political matters, like the aftermath of Grenada, East-West problems, trade, tourism, disarmament and regional security.

The Kingston conference was also considered a warm-up for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, which will be held in the Bahamas next fall. The last such conference was held in New Delhi in November 1983.

Aid commitment

As one of the opening speakers at the conference Mr. Mulroney renewed Canada's development-assistance commitment to the Caribbean. He promised to carry out the commitment that was undertaken by

the government of former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau to double Canadian aid to Caribbean countries.

The value of Canadian aid to the Caribbean was \$43 million in 1983-84 and is scheduled to increase to \$53 million in 1984-85, plus about \$15 million in food.

At the conclusion of the two-day conference Mr. Mulroney said that he had agreed to take Caribbean concerns about borrowing and debt to his meeting with President Ronald Reagan in Quebec City in March and also to the economic summit to be held later in Bonn, West Germany.

Mr. Mulroney also said that Canada would study a proposal made by Mr. Seaga for duty-free entry of Caribbean goods, modelled on the US Caribbean Basin Initiative which came into effect in 1984. The proposed arrangement, called Caribbean by Mr. Seaga, would allow all products from Caribbean Commonwealth countries unlimited entry to Canada.

It was pointed out by Mr. Mulroney that 93 per cent of Caribbean imports now enter Canada duty-free, and most of the remaining 7 per cent enjoy favourable treatment.

Mr. Seaga said the dutiable 7 per cent included the items that were most important to the Caribbean nations because of their potential for employment and growth. These include clothing, cigars and shoes.

Trade between Canada and Caribbean countries has increased steadily. In 1983 Canadian exports to the region totalled \$320 million and imports were worth \$207 million.



Brian Mulroney