



PRESS RELEASE

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The Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Minister of Mines and Resources announce that Lieutenant Colonel Laval Fortier, O.B.E., K.C., will represent Canada at a meeting of the Preparatory Commission for the International Refugee Organization, opening in Geneva on January 20.

Colonel Fortier, formerly of Quebec City, is Associate Commissioner of Immigration, Department of Mines and Resources. The topic for discussion at Geneva will be the handling of refugees and displaced persons, an international problem towards the solution of which Canada is making a substantial contribution, both through the contribution of funds to the I.R.O. and the admission of D.P.'s as immigrants to Canada.

Following the Geneva meetings, Colonel Fortier will make a tour of inspection of Canadian immigration offices abroad. These include Canadian immigration headquarters in Germany at Heidelberg, Brussels, Paris, The Hague and London. He will meet Canadian immigration teams working in Europe and visit a number of Displaced Persons' Camps. The tour will afford him an opportunity for first hand study of the operation of Canadian immigration offices abroad, the amount and quality of accommodation available, the adequacy of staff, and the general conditions with which Canadian officials are faced.