



Bulletin

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SOME CANADIAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS TO CLOSE

In a further statement on the Government's policy of decreased spending for the purpose of halting the spread of inflation, announced by the Prime Minister on August 13 (see Canadian Weekly Bulletin, Vol. 24, No. 34, dated August 20, 1969, P. 1), the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, outlined to the House of Commons on November 3 changes that would shortly take place in Canadian representation in certain parts of the world.

Mr. Sharp's statement follows:

...In Latin America, we are proposing to close our offices in the Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Uruguay. In each case, our resident mission has been headed by a chargé d'affaires, with the ambassador resident in a neighboring country. The ambassadors concerned will continue to be accredited to these countries and normal diplomatic relations will be maintained. Visits by the ambassador and his staff to countries without resident representation will be frequent and regular to ensure that official business between Canada and the countries affected is carried on and Canadian trade and other interests furthered effectively. The closing of these missions in Latin America does not affect the Government's expressed intention to seek closer ties with that part of the world. We are satisfied that the improvement of communications in the Caribbean and South America will enable us to maintain adequate contact with the countries concerned, while permitting redeployment of our resident staff in the interests of greater efficiency.

We propose to close the small office we have maintained in Berlin. Our Ambassador in Bonn, who has been head of that mission, will continue to be

CONTENTS

Some Canadian Diplomatic Posts to Close	1
Polish Wheat Pact Extended	2
Caribbean Development Bank	2
Commemorative Stamps 1970	2
Demonstration of "Drone" System	3
Canadian Sturgeon for U.S.S.R.	4
Gross National Product	4
Canada-Germany Publication Swap	4
McGill Medicine in Arctic	5
Auto Industry Must Expand	5
Investment Companies Act	6
Conference on Fisheries Future	6
More Household Appliances	6
Monthly Index	7

accredited in that capacity and will, as in the past, make regular visits to Berlin as evidence of Canada's commitment to the security and welfare of that city.

PEACEKEEPING ROLE UNAFFECTED

We propose to close our resident High Commission in Nicosia. Our relations with Cyprus and any diplomatic assistance required by our forces there can be provided for effectively through dual accreditation of the Canadian representatives to a neighboring country.

There is no connection between this decision and the question of our continuing participation in the United Nations peacekeeping forces on the island. Canada remains deeply concerned in the search for a solution of the Cyprus dispute and is willing to make whatever contribution it can to the settlement of the problem.

LAOS AND CAMBODIA

In recent years, the International Control Commissions in Laos and Cambodia have, for a variety of reasons, been unable to perform the functions assigned to them. We have, therefore, decided that little useful purpose would be served by maintaining our present physical presence in Vientiane and