

# PRESS RELEASE



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The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, announced today the appointment of Mr. R. M. Macdonnell as Canadian Ambassador to Indonesia. Mr. Macdonnell succeeds Mr. J. P. Sigvaldason, recently appointed Canadian Ambassador to Norway and Iceland. He will take up his duties in Djakarta early in October.

Mr. Macdonnell was born in Vernon, B.C., on May 11, 1909, and studied at Manitoba and Oxford Universities. He joined the Department of External Affairs in 1934, and served in Washington and Kuibyshev. In 1943 he returned to Ottawa and served as the External Affairs Member of the Permanent Joint Board on Defence until 1947. Mr. Macdonnell was Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Canadian Legation in Prague from 1947 to 1949, and in 1950 was appointed Minister at the Canadian Embassy in Paris. In 1952 he returned to Ottawa to become an Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs.

In 1954 Mr. Macdonnell was appointed Canadian Commissioner on the International Commission for Supervision and Control in Cambodia, and served in an interim capacity as the first Canadian Commissioner in Vietnam. He was appointed Deputy Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs in 1955 and Ambassador to Egypt and Minister to Lebanon in 1957. Returning to Ottawa in 1958, Mr. Macdonnell served as Deputy Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs. In 1959 he took up a five-year appointment as Secretary-General of the International Civil Aviation Organization in Montreal.

Mr. Macdonnell is married and has four children.