

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Norman Berlis as Canadian Representative to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC). Mr. Berlis will be located in Ottawa where he will also serve as Director of the United Nations Economic and Social Affairs Division of the Department of External Affairs.

Following the expansion of ECOSOC from 27 to 54 members, Canada was recently elected as a full member of it by the General Assembly of the United Nations. ECOSOC holds two main sessions every year, the first one in the spring in New York, and the second one in the summer in Geneva. As Canadian representative at ECOSOC sessions, Mr. Berlis will have the rank of Ambassador and will serve under the general authority of Canada's Permanent Representatives to the United Nations in New York or Geneva, as the case may be.

Before this new assignment, Mr. Berlis was Canadian Ambassador to Austria and concurrently Canadian Permanent Representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency and to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in Vienna.

BIOGRAPHY

Mr. Norman F.H. Berlis was born in Toronto on April 8, 1914. He is a graduate of the University of Toronto (1937) and of Osgoode Hall (1940). He served in the RCNVR from 1943 to 1946 and joined the Department of External Affairs in 1947. Mr. Berlis has served in Geneva and Rome and in 1962 was appointed High Commissioner to Tanzania and Uganda. In 1964 he was also named High Commissioner to Kenya. In 1965 he became Ambassador to Poland, and, in 1967, he returned to Ottawa to become Chief of Protocol in the Department of External Affairs. From 1970 to 1973 Mr. Berlis was Ambassador to Austria and concurrently Permanent Representative of Canada to UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Association), Permanent Representative of Canada to the IAEA (International Atomic Energy), and Canadian Governor on the IAEA Board of Governors. For the year 1972-73, he was Chairman of the IAEA Board of Governors. Mr. Berlis is married and has two children.

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