



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

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The Department of External Affairs announced today that Mr. Jean Désy, Q.C., is being appointed Canadian Ambassador to France. He will succeed Major-General George P. Vanier whose retirement from public service was announced recently.

Mr. Désy was born in Montreal. He received his education at Laval University and the University of Paris. He practised law in Montreal from 1915 to 1917 and between 1919 and 1925 he taught at the University of Montreal and at the University of Paris. Mr. Desy joined the Department of External Affairs in 1925 and served as Counsellor at the Canadian Legation in Paris from 1928 until 1939. That year he was appointed Canadian Minister to Belgium and to The Netherlands. After his return to Canada in 1941 he was made Canadian Minister to Brazil, and in March, 1944, became Ambassador to that country. He held that post until September 1947, when he was appointed Canadian Minister to Italy. The following year he was made Ambassador to that country when our Mission there was raised to the status of Embassy.

Mr. Désy held the appointment of Canadian Ambassador to Italy until the end of 1951 when he returned to Canada and was seconded to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation as Director General of the International Service. Recently Mr. Desy was sent to Europe on a mission involving a survey of Canadian Overseas Awards. Mr. Desy is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and Membre de l'Academie Diplomatique Internationale.

During his service with the Department of External Affairs Mr. Désy has attended several international conferences including the United Nations Conference on International Organization in San Francisco in 1945.

Mr. Désy is married and has two children.
