

and, in the same year, negotiations began for the establishment of direct relations and for the appointment in Canada of a Finnish Minister. On December 26, 1947, the Finnish Legation in Ottawa was opened and on January 7, 1948, Mr. Urho Toivola presented his Letters of Credence as first Finnish Minister to Canada.

At that time the Canadian Government was rapidly expanding its relations with other countries, and in the Department of External Affairs there was a serious shortage of diplomatic personnel. It was, therefore, suggested that Canada should dually accredit a Minister to Sweden and to Finland, who would normally reside in Stockholm. This suggestion was accepted and Mr. Thomas A. Stone presented his Letters of Credence as Canadian Minister to Finland on September 24, 1949. By June 1, 1952, it was possible to open a Canadian mission in Helsinki with a resident officer who filled the roles of *Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.*, and Consul. Canada has now been able to raise the status of this mission further and to send a resident Ambassador to serve there.

The Finnish Ambassador

His Excellency Artturi Lehtinen was born at Muurla, Finland, in 1896. He graduated from the University of Helsinki as a Bachelor of Science in 1927 and eventually entered the Finnish diplomatic service in 1948. From then until 1950 he served as Commercial Attaché and later Commercial Counsellor at the Finnish Legation in Washington, after which he returned to Helsinki to become Director of Commercial Affairs at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. From 1953 to 1955, he was Permanent Observer of Finland to the United Nations and, from 1953 to 1959, Consul General of Finland in New York. Late that year he came to Ottawa as Finnish *Chargé d'Affaires* and, as we have seen, became his country's first Ambassador to Canada on April 13, 1960.