The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, announced today the appointment of Mr. Ralph Edgar Collins as first Ambassador of Canada to the People's Republic of China. Mr. Collins is at present an Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs in Ottawa.

Mr. Sharp also announced that the Canadian Government had given agrément to Mr. Huang Hua as first Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Canada.

Biographical notes are attached.

- 30 -