

RUANDA-URUNDI COMMISSION

The following statement was made to the House of Commons on May 5 by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Howard Green:

"...I should like to announce the appointment of the Hon. Member for Charlevoix (Mr. Asselin) to the special United Nations commission of judicial review for the Belgian trust territory of Ruanda-Urundi.

"The territory is a small, densely-populated area lying landlocked in Equatorial Africa between the Republic of the Congo (Leopoldville) to the West, Uganda to the North and Tanganyika to the East and South. A former German colony, since 1919 it has been administered by Belgium, first as a mandate of the League of Nations and subsequently as a trust territory of the United Nations.

"On April 21 the General Assembly adopted by a large majority, which included Canada, a resolution giving Belgium specific directives in respect of the administration of the territory and its evolution to independence. The resolution also contained a provision for the implementation of a general amnesty and the establishment of a special three-nation commission to review a number of cases of persons convicted of grave crimes with a view to securing their release from prison or return from exile. Canada, together with Brazil and Tunisia, was elected to serve on this commission, which is expected to leave this month on a journey of approximately three weeks to Belgium and Ruanda-Urundi and to submit a report to the United Nations prior to legislative elections in the territory scheduled for August of this year. The costs of the commission will, of course, be borne by the United Nations.

"As you know...the Hon. Member for Charlevoix is well qualified to take this assignment. He has broad legal and political experience and has concerned himself particularly with international affairs. In 1958 he was a member of the Canadian delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Association meeting in London, and, during the fifteenth session of the United Nations General Assembly, which has just been completed, he served as Canadian Representative both in the Legal Committee and also in the Trusteeship Committee, which has been considering the Ruanda-Urundi item. This Hon. Member has made a splendid contribution to the work of the United Nations during its last session."

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ADVISER FOR MR. DREW

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Howard Green, has announced the appointment of Mr. John C. Stepler, at present Associate Editor of the Vancouver B.C. *Province*, as Special Adviser on Press Relations to the High Commissioner for Canada in London. Mr. Stepler will take up his duties in London early in June.

Mr. Stepler was born in Vancouver, B.C., in 1912. In 1951, when he was City Editor of the *Province* in

Vancouver, he was appointed Press Gallery Correspondent in Ottawa for the Southam News Services. He was Bureau Chief, Southam News Services, in London, England, from 1953 to 1960, at which time he was appointed Associate Editor of the *Province*.

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BANDED OWLS

If you should see a green owl, it is probable that it is really a snowy owl colour-banded with bright dyes by researchers at the University of Wisconsin and now returning to the Arctic tundra for the summer to nest and raise its young.

Anyone spotting one of these birds can help trace their movements by writing to "Operation Snowy Owl", Plainsfield, Wisconsin, U.S.A. The researchers are interested in knowing where the bird was sighted and the location and colour of the dye on its plumage.

MIGRATION CHANGE

Dr. David A. Munro of the Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa, said that the snowy owl normally moves into Southern Canada and the Northern United States during the winter in search of food. During the past winter these great birds went farther south than usual, possibly because the lemming, the mouse-sized Arctic rodent that is the staple of their diet, is at the low point of its population cycle.

The owls, 61 of which were banded, might be seen on their northern migration up to the middle of May.

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PROBING UNTRAVELLED ARCTIC

The possibility of carrying out one or two traverses of areas in the Arctic archipelago that have not previously been sailed is being considered by the Department of Transport.

Such a programme, if carried out, will be an extension of research work that has been done in the Department's Canadian Marine Service icebreakers during the past several summers when they were not required to act in immediate support of the Arctic supply convoys.

These probes will be for the purpose of extending knowledge of the hydrography of the channels in the High Arctic islands and for determining the limits within which it is possible to operate icebreakers. Such information will be of prime necessity if commercial or other activity calls for the movement of shipping in those areas.

An invitation will be issued to other government departments that have a scientific interest in the High Arctic to put personnel aboard the ship or ships involved.

Any decision as to the precise direction of such expeditions will be taken after the Canadian Marine Service ships are in the north for their regular resupply operations, and will be made in the light of ice conditions prevailing at that time.