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OUELLET PAYS TRIBUTE TO CHARLES RITCHIE

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today noted with sadness the death of former diplomat Charles Ritchie at the age of 88 and sent his condolences to his widow Sylvia and family.

"Charles Ritchie was a distinguished diplomat and public servant whose dedication, professionalism and experience did much to shape Canada's post-World War II foreign policy and to enhance Canada's stature in the world community," said Mr. Ouellet. "We mourn his passing."

In nearly 40 years in the foreign service, Mr. Ritchie served Canada in most of the high-profile and demanding diplomatic posts: as High Commissioner to Great Britain, as Ambassador to the United States, the United Nations, NATO and Germany and in Ottawa as Deputy Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs and as Special Advisor to the Privy Council Office.

After retiring from the public service in 1971, he enjoyed a successful literary career, publishing a number of books including *The Siren Years*, *Diplomatic Passport* and *Storm Signals*, accounts of his years in the foreign service. In 1969 Mr. Ritchie was named Companion of the Order of Canada.

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