



Miss Hart

No. 2

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DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENT

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, announced today the appointment of Mr. Jacques Gignac, formerly of Montreal, as Canadian Ambassador to Lebanon; Mr. Gignac will be replacing Mr. Christian Hardy who was recently appointed Canadian Ambassador to Brazil.

Mr. Gignac is expected to take up his new post in Beirut during the month of January.

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JACQUES GIGNAC

Mr. Jacques Gignac was born in Shawinigan, Quebec on July 24, 1928. He attended the University of Montreal from which he received a B. A. in 1949 and where he followed post-graduate courses in Sociology; the Institut Catholique de Paris, from which he received degrees in theology (1955) and in Social Sciences (1957); and the Sorbonne, from which he received a degree in literature (1957). In 1958 he taught at le Collège Sainte-Marie in Montreal.

Having entered the Department of External Affairs in 1958, he saw service at Headquarters in Ottawa, the Canadian Consulate General in Boston and the Canadian Embassy in Paris. Reassigned to Ottawa in 1965, he was appointed Head of the Cultural Programmes Section of the Cultural Affairs Division and, in 1968, named Head of this Division succeeding Mr. René de Chantal on the latter's return to academic life. In this capacity, Mr. Gignac has had primary responsibility in the negotiation and implementation of a number of cultural agreements and exchange programmes with