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The Secretary of State for External Affairs announced today the appointment of Mr. Emile Vaillancourt as Canadian Minister in Yugoslavia. Mr. Vaillancourt, who is at present Canadian Minister at Havana, Cuba, will take up his new post at Belgrade in February.

Mr. Vaillancourt was the first Canadian diplomatic representative in Cuba and presented his Letter of Credence to the President of Cuba on May 8, 1945. He will now open the first Canadian Diplomatic Mission in Belgrade.

Canada has had direct diplomatic relations with Yugoslavia since the exchange, during the war, of diplomatic representatives between Canada and the Yugoslav Government in London. In 1942, General George P. Vanier was accredited as Minister to Yugoslavia, and Dr. Izidor Cankar was Minister of Yugoslavia in Ottawa. Mr. Mato Jaksic has been nominated as Yugoslav Minister in succession to Dr. Cankar and will take up his duties at Ottawa in the near future.

Mr. Vaillancourt was born in Montreal on March 23, 1889, the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Vaillancourt. He was educated in Montreal; after graduation from St. Mary's College he took up journalism. He is a member of the Royal Geographical Society and of the Academy of Rouen. In 1932 he received a Doctor's degree "honoris causa" from the University of Caen. Mr. Vaillancourt was the first Director General of Tourism for the Province of Quebec, a post which he held for five years. He was Manager of the Montreal Tourist and Convention Bureau and Director of the Quebec Division of the Health League of Canada. He is the author of several publications on Canadian history and art and of works on political science. In 1916 he married Blanche Jeannotte. They have one son and three daughters.