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THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 1954.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs today announced that Mr. John B. C. Watkins, who is at present Canadian Minister to Norway and Iceland, will be transferred to Moscow with the rank of Ambassador. Mr. R. A. D. Ford, who is at present Chargé d'Affaires a.i. in Moscow, will return for duty in the Department. Announcement was also made of the appointment of Mr. Chester A. Ronning as Canadian Minister to Norway and Iceland to succeed Mr. Watkins.

John Benjamin Clark Watkins was born at Norval, Ontario, on December 3, 1902, and was educated at the University of Toronto and Cornell University. He was for several years Secretary of the American-Scandinavian Foundation in New York before joining the Department in 1946. Mr. Watkins served as Canadian Chargé d'Affaires in Moscow from 1948 to 1951. He then returned to the Department and served as Head of the European Division. He was appointed Canadian Minister to Norway and Iceland in October, 1952.

Chester Alvin Ronning was born in China on December 13, 1894. He was educated at the Universities of Alberta and Minnesota. After the First World War, during which he served with the Royal Flying Corps, Mr. Ronning held the positions of vice-principal in Edmonton Public Schools and principal of Camrose College, Alberta. He also taught at the Hung Wen Middle School in China. After serving with the R.C.A.F. during the Second World War, Mr. Ronning joined the Department in October, 1945, and was posted that year to the Canadian Embassy in Nanking. He served there for over five years, in the course of which he was Chargé d'Affaires a.i. for a period of two years. Mr. Ronning returned to Ottawa in April, 1951, and has recently been serving as Head of the Far Eastern and the Commonwealth Divisions.
