

PRESS RELEASE

INFORMATION DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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December 30, 1949.

The Honourable L. B. Pearson, Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced today that the Civil Service Commission had approved the appointment of C. S. A. Ritchie as Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs. Mr. Pearson also announced that R. M. Macdonnell had been named Minister at the Canadian Embassy in Paris. Mr. Macdonnell has recently been Canadian Charge d'Affaires in Prague. Mr. Ritchie has been Counsellor at the Canadian Embassy, Paris. It is expected that Mr. Macdonnell will take up his appointment in Paris some time in January; Mr. Ritchie will assume his responsibilities in Ottawa some time during the same month.

The appointment to France of an experienced officer of the Department with the rank of Minister is a recognition of the importance attached to the Canadian Embassy in Paris. The Ambassador is Major-General Georges P. Vanier.

With the present appointment of Mr. Ritchie, the number of Assistant Under-Secretaries in the Department is increased from two to three. The others are Leon Mayrand and Herbert Moran.

Biographical notes of Mr. Ritchie and Mr. Macdonnell are attached.