

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Hon. Mitchell Sharp, in consultation with the Minister of Transport, the Hon. Jean Marchand, announced the appointment of Mr. Ralph Collins as Chief Air Negotiator in the Department of External Affairs. He will be responsible for the conduct of the extensive series of bilateral negotiations envisaged in the statement on international civil aviation policy by the Minister of Transport last November and will draw on the Ministry of Transport, the Department of External Affairs and the Canadian Transport Commission for assistance in setting up negotiating teams.

Mr. Collins will report to the Interdepartmental Committee on Civil Aviation chaired by the Deputy Minister of Transport which consists of the President of the Canadian Transport Commission, the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, and senior officials of other Government Departments. The Committee is responsible for co-ordinating domestic and international civil aviation matters and making recommendations as appropriate to the Minister of Transport and the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Biographical notes on Mr. Collins follow.

RALPH COLLINS

Mr. Collins was born in Yunnanfu (now Kunming) China in 1914. He studied at the University of Alberta, the Zimmern School of International Studies in Geneva, Harvard University, the University of California and Oxford.

He entered the Department of External Affairs in 1941 and has served in a number of posts abroad, including Chungking (the wartime capital of China), Washington, London and Moscow, and as Ambassador to South Africa. From 1965 to 1971, Mr. Collins was in Ottawa as Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs. Mr. Collins was appointed in April, 1971 as Canada's first Ambassador to China after Canada established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, and led the Canadian delegation which completed negotiations of the Air Agreement with China in 1972. In 1972, he resumed his position as Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Mr. Collins is married and has three children.