

GOVERNMENT



OF CANADA

PRESS RELEASE

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

NO. 21

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

March 1, 1948.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Secretary of State announced today that Canada will take part in an International Conference at Brussels in June to consider a revision of the Berne-Berlin-Rome Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, commonly known as the Copyright Convention. Mr. Victor Dore, Canadian Ambassador to Belgium, will be Head of the Delegation and will be assisted by W. P. J. O'Meara, K.C., Assistant Under-Secretary of State, as Alternate Delegate and by D. V. C. MacDonald, K.C., Dean of the Faculty of Law, Dalhousie University, as Technical Adviser.

Mr. Victor Dore through his work in UNESCO has been concerned with the general problem of copyrights. Mr. O'Meara has represented the Patents and Copyrights Office in litigation before the courts and Dean MacDonald, an authority on copyright, has assisted the Canadian Copyright Appeal Board in an advisory capacity.

The International Law of Copyright dates from the original Berne Convention of 1886 and has been revised at later conferences held at Paris in 1896, at Berlin in 1908, and at Rome in 1928. The Convention guarantees to authors of all works in the literary, scientific and artistic domain first published in a Copyright Union country, the enjoyment in the other countries of the rights which the Copyright Laws of those countries grant to their citizens. The enjoyment of these rights is not subject to any formality, such as registration, and the rights include royalties from translations.

The Conference to be held in Brussels in June will have to consider, among other things, weaknesses and ambiguities in the present Convention. Many problems have arisen as a result of changes in the techniques of reproducing literary and artistic works and in connection with the difficult question of tariffs relating to public performing rights.