

(C.W.B. March 19, 1948)

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION CONFERENCE

CANADIAN DELEGATES: The Department of External Affairs on Thursday announced the composition of the Canadian delegation to the United Nations Conference on Freedom of Information and of the Press which opens in Geneva, Switzerland, on March 23. All members of the United Nations have been invited to participate in the Conference which will have the task of formulating views concerning the rights, obligations and practices which should be included in the concept of freedom of information.

The provisional agenda for the Conference, which was established by the Economic and Social Council, calls for a general discussion on the principles of freedom of information and consideration of certain fundamental principles to which media of information should have regard in performing their basic functions of gathering, transmitting and disseminating news and information without fetters. Study will be given to measures to facilitate the gathering of information, the international transmission of information, and concerning the free publication and reception of information.

Recommendations on these subjects have been made to the Conference by the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press, which has held two sessions at Lake Success. The first session of the Sub-Commission was held from May 19 to June 4, 1947, and the second, January 19 to February 3, 1948. Mr. G.V. Ferguson, editor of the Montreal Star, who attended the two sessions of the Sub-Commission in an individual capacity, played a prominent role in both sessions.

The Canadian delegation will be composed as follows:

Jean Desy, K.C., Canadian Minister in Italy, who will head the delegation.

Mr. Desy, born in Montreal, was formerly Professor of International and Constitutional Law and Political History at the University of Montreal. He joined the Department of External Affairs in 1925. Prior to his appointment as Canadian Minister in Italy, he served as Canadian Ambassador in Brazil. Mr. Desy has represented Canada on numerous international conferences and was senior adviser to the Canadian delegation at the San Francisco Conference in 1945.

DELEGATES: **Arthur Ford,** Editor-in-Chief of the London Free Press, London, Ontario.

Mr. Ford is a native of Point Edward, Ontario, and a graduate of Victoria College of the University of Toronto. Having worked on newspapers in Stratford, Ottawa, New York, Winnipeg and Toronto he was assistant to the Canadian correspondent of The Times of London before joining the London Free Press. In 1942 he headed a group of Canadian

newspapermen who visited Australia and New Zealand on a goodwill tour. Mr. Ford "covered" the initial meetings of both the United Nations Conference at San Francisco and the United Nations General Assembly in New York and Lake Success. From 1942 to 1943 he was President of the Canadian Press. As Chancellor of the University of Western Ontario he took a leading part in the establishment of the University's school of journalism.

W. Arthur Irwin, Editor of Maclean's Magazine.

Born in Ayr, Ontario, Mr. Irwin attended school in Toronto and Winnipeg before entering the University of Manitoba on a scholarship. After serving overseas with the 10th Canadian Siege Battery he returned and completed his university studies at the University of Toronto receiving his Bachelor of Arts with honours in Political Science. Starting his newspaper career in 1920 on the Toronto Mail and Empire he joined the Toronto Globe in 1923 and was its correspondent in the Parliamentary Press Gallery. He joined Maclean's Magazine in 1925 as Associate Editor and was named Managing Editor in 1943 and Editor in 1945. Mr. Irwin was Canadian delegate to the British Commonwealth Relations Conference in London, England, in 1945. He is a member of the National Executive of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs.

Lorenzo Pare, Ottawa correspondent, L'Action Catholique, Quebec, Parliamentary Press Gallery.

Born in Quebec, Mr. Pare received his B.A. in classical studies at the Quebec Seminary and studied philosophy at Laval University. A member of the Parliamentary Press Gallery since 1936, he covered the Quebec Conferences in 1943 and 1944 and the Washington Conference in 1943. Mr. Pare was a member of the group of Canadian newspapermen who visited Australia and New Zealand on a goodwill tour in 1942. He was a War Correspondent with the Canadian Army (Pacific theatre) in 1943.

Daniel C. McArthur, Chief Editor of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation News Service.

A graduate of the Ontario Agricultural College and a veteran of the First World War, Mr. McArthur started his newspaper career with the Toronto Globe in 1922. After a variety of experiences in the news and publicity fields, he joined the Press and Information Department of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in 1939. When the C.B.C. news service was organized in 1941, he was appointed as Chief Editor.

ADVISORS: **Max Wershof,** Canadian High Commissioner's Office, London.

Mr. Wershof was born in Ottawa and graduated in law from the University of Alberta in 1930. After practising law in Edmonton, he joined the editorial staff of Burroughs and Co., Ltd., Toronto Law Publishers, in 1936. He joined the Department of External Affairs in 1937 and has served in Washington, Ottawa and London.

Campbell Moodie, Information Officer, Canadian High Commissioner's Office, London.

Born in Capetown, South Africa, Mr. Moodie came to Canada at an early age and graduated from McGill University. He served overseas with the Canadian Army during the Second World War, and in 1942 he was seconded to the staff of the Canadian High Commissioner in London where he has served as an Information Officer successively under the Wartime Information Board, Canadian Information Service and the Department of External Affairs.

George Hambleton, Information Division, Department of External Affairs.

Born in Leek, Staffs., England, Mr. Hambleton came to Canada in 1906. After working for several years on the staffs of the Montreal Herald and Montreal Star, he

joined the Canadian Press in 1917, as Assistant Superintendent of the Ottawa Bureau. In 1920 he was appointed Superintendent and for seven years subsequently directed the Canadian Press, Ottawa Service. In 1928 he was appointed European Staff Correspondent of Canadian Press and represented his organization at all Imperial Conferences between the First and Second World Wars. He is a former President of the Ottawa Press Gallery. Since 1939 he has been connected with Canadian governmental information services.

SECRETARY TO THE DELEGATION: **Llewellyn A.D. Stephens,** Canadian Legation, Berne, Switzerland.

Born in Hamilton, Ontario, Mr. Stephens attended Pickering College, Newmarket, Ontario. He received his B.A. in 1937 from McMaster University and his M.A. from Harvard University in 1938. In 1941 he entered the Canadian Army and served with the Canadian Intelligence Corps in the United Kingdom and Western European theatres. He joined the Department of External Affairs in 1945 and was Secretary to the UNESCO Conferences at Paris in 1946 and Mexico in 1947. He joined the staff of the Berne Legation in February, 1948.