

PRESS RELEASE



COMMUNIQUÉ

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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No. 9

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, today announced the following appointments in the Canadian diplomatic service:

Mr. Léon Mayrand - at present Canadian Ambassador to Argentina and Paraguay, to be Canadian Ambassador to Cuba and Haiti, succeeding Mr. George Kidd. Mr. Mayrand's successor in Argentina and Paraguay will be announced in due course.

Mr. Ralph Collins - at present Head of the Department's African and Middle Eastern Division, to be Ambassador to South Africa, replacing the late Mr. J.J. Hurley.

Mr. George K. Grande - at present Head of the Department's Inspection Service, to be High Commissioner to Ceylon, replacing Mr. James George who will be returning for duty in the Department.

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Mr. Mayrand was born in Montreal in 1905. He studied at the Universities of Montreal, Paris and London. He served on the editorial staff of "La Patrie" in 1933-34 and joined the Department of External Affairs in 1934. In the following years, he served abroad in London, Rio de Janeiro and Moscow.

Mr. Mayrand was appointed Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs in 1949 and Canadian Ambassador to Chile in 1951. When the International Supervisory Commissions in Indochina were established in 1954, Mr. Mayrand became Canada's first Commissioner in Laos. In 1956 he was appointed Ambassador to Spain and in 1958 assumed his duties as Ambassador to Italy.

When the International Supervisory Commission for Laos was reactivated in 1961, Mr. Mayrand was again asked to assume the role of Canadian Commissioner. He was appointed Ambassador to Argentina and Paraguay in November 1962.

Mr. Mayrand is married and has three children.

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