



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1958.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ANNOUNCED TODAY THE APPOINTMENT OF MR. GEORGE BERNARD SUMMERS, O.C. AS MINISTER EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF CANADA TO IRAN. MR. SUMMERS IS AT PRESENT HEAD OF THE UNITED NATIONS DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS IN OTTAWA. HE WILL BE THE FIRST CANADIAN MINISTER TO IRAN AND WILL TAKE UP HIS DUTIES IN TEHRAN EARLY IN THE NEW YEAR.

IRAN HAS MAINTAINED A LEGATION IN OTTAWA SINCE 1956. THE APPOINTMENT OF A CANADIAN MINISTER IN TEHRAN IS A FURTHER RECOGNITION OF THE TIES AND FRIENDSHIP WHICH EXIST BETWEEN IRAN AND CANADA AND WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO BE OF EVEN GREATER IMPORTANCE TO THE TWO COUNTRIES IN THE FUTURE.

GEORGE BERNARD SUMMERS, Q.C.

MR. SUMMERS WAS BORN IN ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND, ON OCTOBER 16, 1906. HE WAS ADMITED AS SOLICITOR AND CALLED TO THE BAR OF NEWFOUNDLAND IN 1929. HE WAS APPOINTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, NEWFOUNDLAND AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY IN 1934 AND WAS NAMED SECRETARY FOR JUSTICE UNDER THE NEWFOUNDLAND COMMISSION OF GOVERNMENT IN 1939. HE WAS CREATED QUEEN'S COUNSEL IN 1940. HE JOINED THE NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT AS CAPTAIN IN 1944 AND HELD VARIOUS STAFF APPOINTMENTS OVERSEAS DURING AND AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR. UPON HIS DISCHARGE FROM THE ARMY WITH THE RANK OF COLONEL IN 1946, MR. SUMMERS WAS APPOINTED LEGAL ADVISER IN THE CONTROL COMMISSION FOR GERMANY. HE HELD THIS POST UNTIL HE JOINED THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS IN SEPTEMBER, 1950. MR. SUMMERS SERVED IN OTTAWA UNTIL 1954 IN THE LEGAL AND UNITED NATIONS DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT AND WAS APPOINTED HEAD OF UNITED NATIONS DIVISION IN 1953. IN 1954 HE WAS APPOINTED CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AT THE CANADIAN LEGATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. IN 1957 HE RETURNED TO OTTAWA FOR DUTY AS HEAD OF THE UNITED NATIONS DIVISION. MR. SUMMERS IS MARRIED AND HAS TWO CHILDREN.