



# PRESS RELEASE

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## Appointment of Acting Secretary-General to the United Nations

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Howard Green, today sent a message of congratulations to U Thant, the Permanent Representative of Burma to the United Nations on his appointment as Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations. Ambassador Thant's appointment until April, 1963 to complete the term of office of the late Secretary-General, Mr. Dag Hammarskjold, was recommended by the Security Council and approved unanimously by the United Nations General Assembly this afternoon.

The following is the text Mr. Green's message to Ambassador Thant:

"On behalf of the Government of Canada, I congratulate you on your appointment as Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations. Your acceptance of this position at this critical period in world affairs and in the history of the United Nations is yet another indication of the devotion to the United Nations which you have always displayed. It is particularly gratifying that your appointment to this high office has been accomplished without sacrifice of the integrity of the office of Secretary-General or the fundamental principles of the Charter.

I am conscious of the heavy burden which you will be required to bear in seeing the United Nations through the difficult days ahead, but I am fully confident that you will meet the responsibilities of your new office in the best interests of the United Nations as a whole. I assure you of Canada's full cooperation in assisting you to discharge your duties".