
news release

Date **May 16, 1994**

No. 98

For release

OUELLET PRESENTS 1994 AWARD FOR CONSULAR EXCELLENCE

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today presented the 1994 Minister's Award for Consular Excellence to Mr. Jacques Persoons, Canada's Honorary Consul for Burundi. This award recognizes Mr. Persoon's service to both Canadians and Australians during last year's abortive coup in Burundi and his dedication over several years in a difficult environment.

"I am most pleased to recognize the contribution of a Belgian citizen acting as Honorary Consul for Canada. Mr. Persoons' assistance to the Canadian community in chaotic circumstances during the coup in Burundi and the recent evacuation of Canadians from Rwanda was outstanding," said Mr. Ouellet.

Citations for exemplary service in the consular field were also presented to Mr. Neil Clegg, Mrs. Lillian Crichton and Mrs. Janet Yates.

Mr. Neil Clegg, former First Secretary and Consul in Beijing, was recognized for his handling of the case of a mentally-ill Canadian detained in Mongolia.

Mrs. Lillian Crichton, Honorary Consul at Montego Bay, Jamaica, received her citation in appreciation of her dedication and compassion in assisting a large number of Canadians in distress over several years. She has handled over eighty arrests and detentions of Canadians for drug-related offences and close to sixty repatriations to Canada.

The third winner was Mrs. Janet Yates, a locally-engaged Consular Assistant in Tehran, Iran. The citation recognized her efforts in dealing with a number of complex consular cases, including the accidental death of a Canada-based officer and the attempted suicide of a young Canadian woman.

The Minister's Award for Consular Excellence is presented annually as part of the Department's Recognition and Awards Program.

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