

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

communiqué

No: 97

DIFFUSION: RELEASE:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE OCTOBER 27, 1978

CREATION OF A BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL RELATIONS
AND A BUREAU OF INFORMATION
WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Don Jamieson, announces the creation of a Bureau of International Cultural Relations which will assume responsibility for all cultural, artistic, academic and historical affairs within the Department of External Affairs in Ottawa, and in Canadian Missions and cultural centres abroad. The increasing importance of these elements in the conduct of Canadian relations with other countries has led to the decision to create a separate bureau.

Other programmes of the Department which were formerly the responsibility of the Bureau of Public Affairs will be taken over by a new Bureau of Information. This bureau will be responsible for information and media programmes carried out by posts abroad, world exhibitions and public relations activities in general.

Mr. Jamieson emphasized that the new policy of the Department is to call upon highly qualified professionals to fill key cultural and information posts at home and abroad. He is, therefore, pleased to announce several appointments that reflect this policy. Mr. Gilles Lefebvre, a recognized expert in the arts, will be the Director General of the new Bureau of International Cultural Relations, Mr. Hugh Davidson, a specialist in music and broadcasting, will be Counsellor (Cultural Affairs) in London, and Mr. Kenneth Williamson, a senior member of the Department with considerable experience in the field of public information, has been appointed Director General of the new Bureau of Information.

(See biographical notes on the reverse side.)



BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

GILLES LEFEBVRE, 56, originally of Montreal.

Studied music in Ottawa and Paris. Joined the Department in 1972 when he was appointed Director of the Canadian Cultural Centre in Paris. Mr. Lefebvre is well known in international cultural circles for his work with the "Jeunesses musicales du Canada", which he founded in 1940, the "Fédération internationale des Jeunesses musicales" and the Orford Arts Centre which he also established. He has served three terms as President of the "Fédération internationale des Jeunesses musicales du Canada" and was President of the Canadian Conference of the Arts from 1970 to 1972.

HUGH DAVIDSON, 48, originally from Montreal.

Mr. Davidson studied at the University of Western Ontario,
the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto and the Royal College
of Music in London. More recently he was with Canada Council
where he was Head of the Music Division. Mr. Davidson brings
to his new position a long and extensive background in music
and broadcasting. Prior to joining the Canada Council he worked
as music administrator at the National Arts Centre and as a
producer with the BBC, the CBC French and English radio networks
and Radio Canada International.

KENNETH WILLIAMSON, 56, originally of Winnipeg.

Mr. Williamson (B.A., University of Manitoba) joined the Department in 1947 and has served abroad in Rome, Prague, Santiago, Berlin and Washington as well as in the Information Branch of the Department on earlier assignments. He was Ambassador to Turkey from 1974 to 1977. Since 1977 he has been Co-ordinator for the United Nations Special Session on Disarmament.