



# PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OTTAWA - CANADA

NO. 13.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 20, 1958.

THE TWELFTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN CONVENES IN GENEVA ON MARCH 17. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE HISTORY OF THE COMMISSION A CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE WILL TAKE HER SEAT WITH THE OTHER SEVENTEEN REPRESENTATIVES ON THE COMMISSION WHO INCLUDE SOME OF THE WORLD'S OUTSTANDING LEADERS OF WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES.

CANADA WAS ELECTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL LAST MAY TO SERVE A THREE-YEAR TERM ON THE COMMISSION. THE COUNCIL IS THE PARENT ORGAN TO WHICH THE COMMISSION REPORTS.

THE COMMISSION, WHOSE FUNCTION IT IS TO PREPARE STUDIES AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON ALL ASPECTS OF WOMEN'S POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL STATUS, WILL HAVE A HEAVY AGENDA BEFORE IT. AMONG THE SUBJECTS WHICH IT WILL CONSIDER ARE REPORTS ON THE POLITICAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN MEMBER STATES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND TRUST AND NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES; ON THE ACCESS OF WOMEN TO EDUCATION, PREPARED BY UNESCO; ON EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK, PREPARED BY THE ILO; ON ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN INCLUDING PROBLEMS CONFRONTING WORKING MOTHERS, THE AGE OF RETIREMENT AND THE RIGHT TO PENSION OF WOMEN WORKERS, CONDITIONS OF WORKING WOMEN INCLUDING WOMEN WITH FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES, AND THE RIGHT OF WORKING WOMEN TO REST AND TO MATERIAL SECURITY WHEN THEY CAN NO LONGER WORK.

THE COMMISSION WILL ALSO CONSIDER THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN PRIVATE LAW, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ADVISORY SERVICES IN RELATION TO THE STATUS OF WOMEN, AND REPORTS FROM THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON WOMEN. FINALLY, IT WILL CONSIDER ITS OWN FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME AND PRIORITIES.

-2-

CANADA'S REPRESENTATIVE ON THE COMMISSION IS MRS. HARRY QUART M.B.E., OF QUEBEC CITY WHO WAS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE TWELFTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. MISS MARION ROYCE, DIRECTOR OF THE WOMEN'S BUREAU, DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR, AND MR. NEILL CURRIE, DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, WILL ACT AS ADVISERS TO MRS. QUART IN GENEVA.