



communiqué

N^o: 122
No.:

DIFFUSION: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
RELEASE: AUGUST 9, 1982

DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mark MacGuigan, announces the following appointments:

Theodore J. Arcand (48) originally from Bonnyville, Alberta, to be Ambassador to Hungary.

Mr. Arcand (B.A., McMaster University) joined the Department of External Affairs in 1958. He has served abroad in Prague, Yaoundé, Copenhagen, Dar-es-Salaam and the Holy See. Since 1979 he has been Ambassador to Lebanon. Mr. Arcand will replace Miss Dorothy Armstrong who will be a Foreign Service Visitor at the University of New Brunswick.

* * * *

Joe B. Bissett (50) originally from Deloraine, Manitoba, to be High Commissioner to Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Bissett (B.A., United College, University of Manitoba; M.P.A., Carleton University) joined the Department of Manpower and Immigration in 1956. He has served abroad in London, and was Director General of the Foreign Service Branch of the former Immigration Service from 1974-76 and from 1977-81. Since 1981 he has been Assistant Under-Secretary for Immigration Affairs at headquarters. Mr. Bissett replaces Mr. Paul Laberge who has been appointed as Ambassador to Algeria.

* * * *

Milton B. Blackwood (60) originally from Basswood, Manitoba, to be Consul General in Detroit, Michigan.

Mr. Blackwood (B.Sc.A., University of Manitoba; M.Sc., University of Minnesota and University of California) joined the Trade Commissioner Service in 1951. He has served abroad in Hong Kong, Bonn, Jakarta, Mexico, Singapore, London, Minneapolis, and as Consul General in Johannesburg. Since 1978 he has been Consul General in Sydney, Australia. Mr. Blackwood will replace Mr. Frank Harris who is returning to Ottawa.

* * * *

Francis Miles Filleul (44) born in Tangier, Morocco, to be Ambassador to Costa Rica, with concurrent accreditation to El Salvador, Nicaragua and Panama.

Mr. Filleul (B.A., University of British Columbia; B.A., Oxford University; Sorbonne University) joined the Department of External Affairs in 1962. He has served abroad in Ankara, Dakar, Paris, Rio de Janeiro, Brasilia and New York. Since July 1981 he has been the Official Spokesman and Director of the Departmental Press Office. Mr. Filleul replaces Mr. Douglas Sirrs whose next appointment will be announced later.

* * * *

Jacques Gignac (53) originally from Shawinigan, Quebec, to be Ambassador and Head of Mission to the European Communities in Brussels.

Mr. Gignac (B.A., College Jean-de-Brébeuf, Montreal; Th.L., L.Sc.S., Institut catholique de Paris; L.L.L., Sorbonne University; University of Montreal) joined the Department of External Affairs in 1958. He has served abroad in Boston and Paris, and as Ambassador to Lebanon, with concurrent accreditation to Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia (1970-74), and as Ambassador to Tunisia (1974-77). In Ottawa, he served as the Director General of the Bureau of Latin American and Caribbean Affairs and subsequently, in 1978, as Assistant Under-Secretary for Latin American, Caribbean, Middle Eastern, Social and Humanitarian Affairs and, in 1981, as Deputy Under-Secretary for Federal-Provincial, Social and Cultural Affairs. In 1982 he was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister for Multilateral and Cultural Affairs. Mr. Gignac is replacing Mr. Richard Tait who is returning to Ottawa.

* * * *

Thomas C. Hammond (49) originally from Toronto, Ontario, to be Head of Delegation and Ambassador to the Mutual and Balanced Force Reduction Talks in Vienna.

Mr. Hammond (B.A., University of Toronto; Oxford University) joined the Department of External Affairs in 1958. He has served abroad in Havana, Belgrade and Vienna. Since 1978 he has been Director of the Defence Relations Division at headquarters. Mr. Hammond will replace Mr. David C. Reece who has been appointed as High Commissioner to Jamaica.

* * * *

Paul E. Laberge (47) originally from St. Boniface, Manitoba, to be Ambassador to Algeria.

Mr. Laberge (B.Comm., M.A., University of Ottawa; Free University of Berlin) joined the Department of External Affairs in 1958. He has served abroad in Washington, Vietnam, Paris, Dakar, and since 1978 has been High Commissioner to Trinidad and Tobago. Mr. Laberge replaces Mr. Louis Delvoie who will be returning to Ottawa.

* * * *

Franklin R. Petrie (52) originally from Grand Falls, Newfoundland, to be Consul General in Sydney, Australia.

Mr. Petrie (Dalhousie University (Economics)), joined the Department of Trade and Commerce in 1957. He has served abroad at the Permanent Mission in Geneva. At the time of his appointment, he was Assistant Under-Secretary, Bureau of Pacific, Asian, African and Middle Eastern Affairs, Trade Development. Mr. Petrie has replaced Mr. M.B. Blackwood who has been appointed Consul General in Detroit.

* * * *

David C. Reece (56) originally from Winnipeg, Manitoba, to be High Commissioner to Jamaica, with concurrent accreditation to the Bahamas, Belize, Cayman Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Mr. Reece (B.A., M.A., Cambridge University) joined the Department of External Affairs in 1952. He has served abroad in New Delhi, Kuala Lumpur, Bonn, London, at the Permanent Mission in New York, and as High Commissioner to Trinidad and Tobago (1972-74) and to Ghana (1974-76). Since 1978 he has been Ambassador and Head of the Canadian Delegation to the Mutual and Balanced Force Reduction Talks (MBFR) in Vienna. Mr. Reece will be replacing Mr. T.B. Sheehan who is returning to Ottawa.

* * * *

George W. Seymour (51) originally from Vancouver, British Columbia, to be High Commissioner to Singapore.

Mr. Seymour (B.Comm., University of British Columbia) joined the Department of External Affairs in 1958. He has served abroad in Indochina, The Hague, Colombo and Washington. Since 1978 he has been Director of the Staff Relations and Compensation Division at headquarters. Mr. Seymour will replace Mr. Michael Berry who has been seconded to the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

* * * *

James H. Taylor (52) originally from Hamilton, Ontario, to be Permanent Representative and Ambassador to the North Atlantic Council in Brussels.

Mr. Taylor (B.A., McMaster University; Oxford University) joined the Department of External Affairs in 1953. He has served abroad in Hanoi, New Delhi, Paris (NATO and OECD) and Moscow. He was Minister at the Canadian Embassy in Paris from 1973-76. In Ottawa he was Assistant Under-Secretary (1977-80) and Deputy Under-Secretary (1980-82); in 1982 he was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister for Political Affairs. Mr. Taylor will replace Mr. J.G.H. Halstead who is retiring.

* * * *

Jean Touchette (52) originally from Lachute, Quebec, to be Ambassador to Greece.

Mr. Touchette (B.A., L.Ph., University of Ottawa; M.A., Harvard University) joined the Department of External Affairs in 1959. He has served abroad in Beirut and Cairo. He was subsequently Ambassador to Egypt and concurrently to the Sudan and Libya (1974-77) and to Tunisia (1977-80). Since 1980 he has been Assistant Under-Secretary for European Affairs at headquarters. Mr. Touchette will replace Mr. James Barker who will be returning to Ottawa.