



news release

Date **August 30, 1994**

For release

No. 163

OUELLET ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF CANADIAN CULTURAL HEAD IN PARIS

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced the appointment of Émile Martel as Minister (Cultural Affairs) at the Embassy of Canada in Paris.

"This is a key post for Canada in the delivery of our International Cultural Relations Program," said Mr. Ouellet. "Mr. Martel's experience and abilities will be a great asset for us in winning further recognition and increased commercial success for Canada in the cultural field."

Mr. Martel is a career diplomat who joined the Department of External Affairs in 1967. He has served abroad in San José (Costa Rica), Madrid, Mexico City and has had two previous postings to Paris, first as First Secretary (Press) and then as Minister-Counsellor (Culture and Communications). His most recent assignment at headquarters was as Senior Policy Adviser in the Latin America and Caribbean Branch.

A university professor prior to joining the Department, Mr. Martel is also a successful author and poet. He has published eight works of fiction and poetry and has translated works from Spanish into French.

Mr. Martel assumes his responsibilities in Paris at the beginning of September.

Biographical information is attached.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Émile Martel (B.A., University of Ottawa, 1960; L.ès L. [Spanish Studies], Université Laval, 1962; Doctorado en filosofía y letras [Spanish Literature], Universidad de Salamanca, Spain, 1964), born in Amos, Quebec, was Assistant Professor of Spanish and French Language and Literature at the universities of Fairbanks, Alaska, and Victoria, British Columbia, between 1964 and 1967.

He joined the Department of Foreign Affairs in 1967 and has served in San José (Costa Rica), Madrid, Mexico City and at the Canadian Embassy in Paris where he was First Secretary (Press) from 1972 to 1975 and Minister-Counsellor (Culture and Communications) from 1987 to 1991 . In Ottawa he was Director, Caribbean and Central America Relations, from 1983 to 1985, Deputy Director of Protocol from 1991 to 1992, and until quite recently, Senior Policy Advisor, Latin America and Caribbean Branch.

Mr. Martel has published eight poetry and fiction works and, as a translator, has published and produced a commentary on the works of Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz and Miguel Hernandez. Among his publications, *Les gants jetés* (1977) was a finalist for the prix du Journal de Montréal. Mr. Martel is a founding member of the Union des écrivains québécois. He is married to Nicole Perron-Martel and they have two sons.