

PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, MARCH 23, 1953

The Department of External Affairs announced today that Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, Chairman of the Indian Delegation to the General Assembly of the United Nations, will arrive on Thursday, March 26, for a two-day visit to Ottawa, after which she will visit Montreal and Toronto. The following programme has been arranged:

Thursday, March 26

- 11.10 a.m. - Arrival at Uplands airport.
- 1.00 p.m. - Lunch at Government House
- 3.30 p.m. - Call on the Prime Minister at House of Commons Office
- 6.00 to 7.30 p.m. - Reception at High Commissioner's residence.
- 8.00 p.m. - Canadian Government dinner at the Country Club.

Friday, March 27

- 1.00 p.m. - Lunch at High Commissioner's residence.
- 4.00 p.m. - Tea with Mrs. St-Laurent.
- 6.45 p.m. - Dinner with the Executive of the United Nations Association at the Rideau Club.
- 8.30 p.m. - Address to the members of the United Nations Association at Glebe Collegiate.

Saturday, March 28

- 12.45 p.m. - Lunch with members of the Montreal Branch of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs.
- 2.30 p.m. - Address to Montreal Branch of C.I.I.A., at Board Room of CBC.
- 7.00 p.m. - Dinner with Mr. Warwick Chipman, Q.C., former High Commissioner for Canada to India, at the University Club.

Sunday, March 29

No engagements.

Monday, March 30

12.30 p.m. - Luncheon address to the Canadian Club of Toronto.

6.15 p.m. - Dinner with members of the Executive of the Toronto Branch of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs.

8.00 p.m. - Address to members of the Toronto Branch of the C.I.I.A.

Tuesday, March 31

Return by air to New York.

MRS. VIJAYA LAKSHMI PANDIT

Mrs. Pandit was born on August 18, 1900 and is the sister of India's Prime Minister Nehru. She was educated by private tutors.

Mrs. Pandit was elected to the Municipal Board of Allahabad in 1935 and served as Chairman of the Education Committee for two years. In 1937 she was elected to the United Provinces Legislative Assembly and appointed Minister in the Cabinet with the portfolios of Local Government and Health. She was the first woman Provincial Minister and served in this capacity for two terms.

In 1945 she led the Indian Delegation to the Pacific Relations Conferences and later presented India's case unofficially at the San Francisco Conference. She has been chairman of the Indian Delegation to various sessions of the United Nations General Assembly since 1946, and is leader of the Indian Delegation at the present session. She was the first woman to head a delegation to the United Nations. In August, 1947 she was appointed Indian Ambassador to Moscow, and in May, 1949 she was named Ambassador to the United States. In 1951 Mrs. Pandit returned to India and was elected to the Parliament (House of the People), in the first general election.

Mrs. Pandit has been closely associated with the All India Women's Conference, and was elected President in 1941. During the Bengal famine she founded the All India Save the Children Association, and was its President until her appointment to the U.S.S.R.
