



CANADA

COMMUNIQUÉ

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES

C O R R E C T I O N

Press Release No. 46, 1st page of text, 3rd paragraph; 1st line, 8th word should be replaced by "to be delivered"; 2nd line, fifth word should read "tomorrow's" and not "today's".

C O R R E C T I O N

Au communiqué n° 46, la première page du texte, le troisième paragraphe, la deuxième ligne: le cinquième mot doit lire "demain" au lieu d' "aujourd'hui".

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES



CANADA

Communiqué

No. 46

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MAY 7, 1973

CANADA PRESENTS PORTRAIT OF  
DR. BROCK CHISHOLM TO WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

---

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, and the Minister of National Health and Welfare, the Honourable Marc Lalonde, announced in Ottawa today that to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the World Health Organization (WHO), Canada is presenting to the Organization a portrait in oils of Dr. Brock Chisholm, a Canadian, who was one of the founders of the WHO and who served as its first Director-General from 1948 to 1953.

The portrait was executed by Mr. A. E. C. Horne, R.C.A., a Toronto artist whose past works include portraits of the former Prime Minister, the Right Honourable John Diefenbaker, and his Excellency the Governor-General, the Right Honourable Roland Michener. It will hang in the library of the WHO headquarters in Geneva.

Following is the text of an address delivered on presentation of the portrait in today's ceremony in Geneva, by Dr. B. D. B. Layton, of Ottawa, former Principal Medical Officer in the Department of National Health and Welfare and the President of last year's World Health Assembly.

"Mr. President, Mr. Director-General, Distinguished Delegates: May I also, at this time, acknowledge the presence of Mrs. Brock Chisholm and Mr. Cleve Horne, the Canadian portrait artist. Mr. President:

It is with deep humility, but pardonable pride I trust, that I have been privileged to pay honour to one who has preceded us and who will be forever remembered as one of the founders of this great Organization.

George Brock Chisholm was born in Canada at the close of the Nineteenth Century. Following four years' service, at a very youthful age, in a line regiment during World War I, he studied medicine at the University of Toronto and received the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1924. This was to initiate a distinguished career, both nationally and internationally, in the pursuit of health for mankind.

After an extended period of post-graduate study, mostly in the United Kingdom, concentrating on his chosen specialty -- psychiatry -- Dr. Chisholm conducted a highly successful private practice as a psychiatrist in Toronto from 1934 to 1940. Typically for him, he disseminated his expert knowledge in this field to others as a Special Lecturer in the Department of Social Sciences at the University of Toronto, as well as other training institutions, and this on an increasingly expanding scale.

Brock Chisholm also continued and progressed in the Militia during this interval. In command of the 25th Canadian Infantry Brigade at the outbreak of World War II, he was brought to Headquarters as a General Staff Officer, his chief concern being Personnel Selection. In 1942 he was promoted to assume much broader responsibilities.

Appointed to the dual offices of Deputy Adjutant-General and Director-General of Medical Services, Brock Chisholm, in the rank of Major-General acquitted, with distinction, this period of his service to

his country. Called back to civilian life in 1944, he became the first Deputy Minister of National Health in the newly formed Department of National Health and Welfare of Canada. Paradoxically as it may seem, this marked a major step in his progress toward the international health field.

In early 1946 he served as the Canadian nominee on the Technical Preparatory Committee established by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations to prepare 'a draft annotated agenda and proposals' for consideration by an international conference which would itself 'consider the scope of, and appropriate machinery for, international action in the field of public health and proposals for the establishment of a single international health organization of the United Nations'. Dr. Chisholm served as the Committee rapporteur to the International Health Conference held in New York in mid-1946 and was elected Chairman of one of the five Working Committees of the Conference, that dealing with Administration and Finance. The names of Shousha, Evang, Gabaldon and Timmerman will be remembered as officers of the other Committees.

At the first meeting of the Interim Commission, established by the Conference pending ratification by governments of the newly drafted and approved Constitution of the World Health Organization, Brock Chisholm was elected Executive Secretary. He served in this capacity until 1948 when the First World Health Assembly, under the Presidency of Dr. Andrija Stampar, elected him Director-General of the World Health Organization. In 1953, he relinquished this office to be succeeded by our present distinguished leader, Dr. M. G. Candau.

Throughout his nearly seven years of service with the Interim Commission and W H O. Brock Chisholm nurtured and shaped the measured growth of the varied programme to provide a number of services to member states as a whole or adapted to individual needs. It had been clear to the authors of the Constitution that there could be no quest of an immediate advance on a front wide enough to cover the whole range of the Organization's functions as set forth.

The initial step toward the preparation of a general programme for a specific period was taken at the Board's second session in late 1948. With his proposals for the 1950 programme and budget estimates, Chisholm, as Director-General, devised a plan whereby a programme of work should be drawn up which the Organization could carry out over a period of several years in the light of current medical knowledge, and whereby within this context there should also be developed annually a plan for that part of the work which could be accomplished in each calendar year of the period. Thus, under the general direction of Dr. Chisholm, were established sound specific procedures and general principles for W H O 's programme which persist, to a large degree, to this day.

Before and during his association with W H O., Dr. Chisholm received many honours and awards. Among these will be found the Medal of the Pasteur Institute of France in 1945, the 'World Government News' Medal for Contributions to World Peace in 1950, the Order of Merit by the Governments of Syria, Lebanon and Cuba, and towards the termination of his W H O years, the Lasker Award of the American Public Health Association for outstanding work in the field of health.

his country. Called back to civilian life in 1944, he became the first Deputy Minister of National Health in the newly formed Department of National Health and Welfare of Canada. Paradoxically as it may seem, this marked a major step in his progress toward the international health field.

In early 1946 he served as the Canadian nominee on the Technical Preparatory Committee established by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations to prepare 'a draft annotated agenda and proposals' for consideration by an international conference which would itself 'consider the scope of, and appropriate machinery for, international action in the field of public health and proposals for the establishment of a single international health organization of the United Nations'. Dr. Chisholm served as the Committee rapporteur to the International Health Conference held in New York in mid-1946 and was elected Chairman of one of the five Working Committees of the Conference, that dealing with Administration and Finance. The names of Shousha, Evang, Gabaldon and Timmerman will be remembered as officers of the other Committees.

At the first meeting of the Interim Commission, established by the Conference pending ratification by governments of the newly drafted and approved Constitution of the World Health Organization, Brock Chisholm was elected Executive Secretary. He served in this capacity until 1948 when the First World Health Assembly, under the Presidency of Dr. Andrija Stampar, elected him Director-General of the World Health Organization. In 1953, he relinquished this office to be succeeded by our present distinguished leader, Dr. M. G. Candau.

Throughout his nearly seven years of service with the Interim Commission and W H O. Brock Chisholm nurtured and shaped the measured growth of the varied programme to provide a number of services to member states as a whole or adapted to individual needs. It had been clear to the authors of the Constitution that there could be no quest of an immediate advance on a front wide enough to cover the whole range of the Organization's functions as set forth.

The initial step toward the preparation of a general programme for a specific period was taken at the Board's second session in late 1948. With his proposals for the 1950 programme and budget estimates, Chisholm, as Director-General, devised a plan whereby a programme of work should be drawn up which the Organization could carry out over a period of several years in the light of current medical knowledge, and whereby within this context there should also be developed annually a plan for that part of the work which could be accomplished in each calendar year of the period. Thus, under the general direction of Dr. Chisholm, were established sound specific procedures and general principles for W H O 's programme which persist, to a large degree, to this day.

Before and during his association with W H O., Dr. Chisholm received many honours and awards. Among these will be found the Medal of the Pasteur Institute of France in 1945, the 'World Government News' Medal for Contributions to World Peace in 1950, the Order of Merit by the Governments of Syria, Lebanon and Cuba, and towards the termination of his W H O years, the Lasker Award of the American Public Health Association for outstanding work in the field of health.



After leaving W H O , Dr. Chisholm's concern and dedication to the betterment of mankind, his habits and his way of life, did not abate, but rather became more intense in his thoughts and in his personal efforts. He made many lecture tours, visiting and voicing his firm convictions on the necessity for world health -- emotional health and unity for peace -- a truly lasting peace.

During this period he was elected President of the World Federation for Mental Health, Vice-President of the World Association of World Federalists and Honorary President of the World Federalists of Canada. He received the Golden Anniversary Mental Health Award in 1958 and the Humanist of the Year Award of the American Humanist Association in 1959.

In his own country Brock Chisholm was not without formal recognition. For his military service, he received the distinction of being made a Companion of the British Empire, as well as receiving the Military Cross with Bar. He was a Companion of the Order of Canada. In 1960, two universities in the United States of America bestowed on him Honorary Degrees; Doctor of Hebrew Literature from Brandeis University and Doctor of Science from Dartmouth.

Among his many publications, two in particular should be mentioned as characterizing his philosophy of man in our present-day world -- the first 'Prescription for Survival' and second 'Can People Learn to Learn?'. Perhaps, in concluding this tribute to Brock Chisholm, I might best express what I personally recall as his most sought-after objective by paraphrasing, liberally I confess, this latter title to read 'Will people ever learn to learn?'

Mr. Director-General: On behalf of the Government of Canada, it gives me the greatest pleasure to present to the World Health Organization, through you, a portrait of Dr. Brock Chisholm, first Director-General of this Organization, painted posthumously by the Canadian artist Mr. Cleve Horne. May I express the hope that it will be hung in a suitable place and will remain, in perpetuity, in the Headquarters of the World Health Organization.'