

PRESS RELEASE



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The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, today announced the following appointments in the Canadian diplomatic service:

Mr. Léon Mayrand - at present Canadian Ambassador to Argentina and Paraguay, to be Canadian Ambassador to Cuba and Haiti, succeeding Mr. George Kidd. Mr. Mayrand's successor in Argentina and Paraguay will be announced in due course.

Mr. Ralph Collins - at present Head of the Department's African and Middle Eastern Division, to be Ambassador to South Africa, replacing the late Mr. J.J. Hurley.

Mr. George K. Grande - at present Head of the Department's Inspection Service, to be High Commissioner to Ceylon, replacing Mr. James George who will be returning for duty in the Department.

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Mr. Mayrand was born in Montreal in 1905. He studied at the Universities of Montreal, Paris and London. He served on the editorial staff of "La Patrie" in 1933-34 and joined the Department of External Affairs in 1934. In the following years, he served abroad in London, Rio de Janeiro and Moscow.

Mr. Mayrand was appointed Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs in 1949 and Canadian Ambassador to Chile in 1951. When the International Supervisory Commissions in Indochina were established in 1954, Mr. Mayrand became Canada's first Commissioner in Laos. In 1956 he was appointed Ambassador to Spain and in 1958 assumed his duties as Ambassador to Italy.

When the International Supervisory Commission for Laos was reactivated in 1961, Mr. Mayrand was again asked to assume the role of Canadian Commissioner. He was appointed Ambassador to Argentina and Paraguay in November 1962.

Mr. Mayrand is married and has three children.

Mr. Collins was born in Kunming, China, in 1914 and is a graduate of the University of Alberta and of Oxford, where he was a Rhodes scholar. He also attended the University of California and Harvard.

Mr. Collins joined the Department of External Affairs in 1940 and was assigned to the Canadian Legation in Chungking as Third Secretary in 1943. From 1945-50 he served at the Canadian Embassy in Washington. In 1952, he became Head of European Division in the Department, and in 1953 was assigned to the Office of the High Commissioner for Canada in London. In 1956-57 he served as Counsellor at the Canadian Embassy in Moscow. Mr. Collins returned to Ottawa in 1957 as Head of Far Eastern Division. In 1960-61 he was Canadian Fellow at the Harvard Centre for International Studies and since September 1961 has been Head of the African and Middle Eastern Division.

Mr. Collins is married and has three children.

Mr. Grande was born in Montreal in 1919 and attended McGill University and Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto. He joined the RCAF in 1941, served in Britain, India and Ceylon, and was discharged in 1945 with the rank of Flight Lieutenant.

Mr. Grande joined the Department of External Affairs in 1946 and was Secretary of the Canadian Permanent Delegation to the United Nations from 1947-50 when he returned to Ottawa. He served at the Canadian Embassy in Athens, 1952-54, and from 1957-60 was Deputy Head of the Canadian Military Mission in Berlin. He returned to Ottawa in 1960 and at present is Head of the Department's Inspection Service.

Mr. Grande is married and has three children.