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DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENT

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, announced today the appointment of Mr. Ralph Edgar Collins as first Ambassador of Canada to the People's Republic of China. Mr. Collins is at present an Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs in Ottawa.

Mr. Sharp also announced that the Canadian Government had given agrément to Mr. Huang Hua as first Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Canada.

Biographical notes are attached.

RALPH EDGAR COLLINS

Mr. Collins was born in Yunnanfu (now Kunming), China on November 23, 1914. He studied at the University of Alberta, the Zimmern School of International Studies in Geneva, Harvard University, the University of California, and Oxford.

Mr. Collins joined the Department of External Affairs in 1940. He has served abroad in Chungking, Washington, London, Moscow, and as the Ambassador to the Republic of South Africa. He has served in Ottawa as Head of the European Division, the Far Eastern Division and the African and Middle Eastern Division. Since 1965, he has been Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Mr. Collins is married to Jane Irwin and has three children.

HUANG HUA

Mr. Huang Hua was born January 1913 in Hopei Province, and is a university graduate. He has served as Director of the Foreign Affairs Bureau of Tientsin, Nanking and Shanghai successively, Director of the Department of West European Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of Ghana and the United Arab Republic successively.