



NO. 69

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1964.Opening of Two General Consulates in France

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, has announced that Canada will open two consulates-general in France, one in Bordeaux at the beginning of December, and the other in Marseille next spring. The first Canadian Consul-General at Bordeaux will be Mr. Robert Choquette, and at Marseille Mr. Eugène Bussiére.

The jurisdiction of the Bordeaux Consulate-General will include the region of the south-west of France (Poitou, Charente, Limousin, Aquitaine and the southern Pyrenees) and that of the Consulate-General of Marseille the region of the south-east (including Languedoc, Provence, the Riviera and Corsica).

Curriculum Vitae

Mr. Choquette was born in Manchester, New Hampshire, U.S.A., in 1905. He obtained his bachelor of arts at Loyola College in 1926. After a period with the "Gazette" in Montreal he became secretary of the French branch of the Association of Canadian Authors and editor-in-chief of the "Revue Moderne". Following this he served as librarian-secretary at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Montreal. He taught at Smith College, North Hampton, Mass., in 1942-43. In January 1963 he was named Associate Commissioner of the Centennial Commission. Mr. Choquette is a well-known poet and novelist; he has published, among other works, "Suite

Marine" for which he won a special prize of the French Academy in 1954 and "Metropolitan Museum". His "Oeuvres poétiques" appeared in 1956. His novels "Le Curé de Village" and "Les Velder" were made into radio and television serials. Mr. Choquette is married and has two children.

Mr. Bussiére, who was born in Normandin, Quebec in 1910, received his university education at the University of Laval in Quebec and at the University of Paris. After several years spent in university teaching, Mr. Bussiére directed the adult education section of UNESCO in Paris. He then became director of the Canadian Citizenship Division of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration in Ottawa, before being named in 1957 First Associate Director of the Arts Council of Canada. In this capacity he served as the first Secretary of the Canadian National Commission for UNESCO. While exercising these functions Mr. Bussiére also occupied the post of Assistant Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Ottawa from 1955 to 1959. He has also participated in several international press conferences. Mr. Bussiére is married and has three sons and one daughter.

#### Background Notes

At the time of the official visit of the Prime Minister to Paris last January, the Canadian and French governments, as announced by the communique issued at the conclusion of the visit, expressed their mutual desire to strengthen existing links between the two countries. Accordingly, regular meetings have been arranged by the two governments and Canada has launched a programme of cultural exchanges with France as well as with other French-speaking

countries, for which \$250,000 will be set aside each year.

It was following on these developments that the Canadian Government decided to open Consulates-General in Bordeaux and Marseille. The choice of Marseille, the largest metropolitan centre in France after Paris, and Bordeaux, an important sea port, will permit a useful decentralization of the activities of our Paris Embassy.