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JANUARY 27, 1973

CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN AN INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION IN
VIET-NAM

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, announced today that confirmation has been received that the Agreement and Protocols regarding a cease-fire in Viet-Nam were signed in Paris today by representatives of the four parties. He also announced that all four parties have formally invited Canada to participate, along with Hungary, Indonesia and Poland, in the new international supervisory organization envisaged by the agreement and protocols. A diplomatic note has been conveyed to the representatives of the four parties informing them of Canada's willingness to participate in the international commission, but making clear that Canada's participation beyond the initial participation of sixty days will be dependent on the extent to which the conditions for full acceptance of membership by Canada, as previously communicated to the parties to the agreements, are fulfilled during the period of initial participation.

Accordingly, the first group of Canadian civilian and military personnel to serve with the new International Supervisory Commission are leaving Montreal by a Canadian Armed Forces aircraft today for Saigon where they are expected to arrive on Monday, January 29.

The Canadian Delegation which will participate in the new commission is headed by Mr. Michel Gauvin, the Canadian Ambassador to Greece. Ambassador Gauvin, a native of Quebec City, is particularly well qualified for this task, having served as an advisor to the ICSC Indochina in 1955 and as Canadian Chargé d'Affaires in the Congo during the period of the United Nations peacekeeping operations in that country. Mr. Gauvin also was sent by Canada on a special mission to the Congo during the Stanleyville crisis in 1964 and to the Dominican Republic during the civil war in 1965. Before joining the Department of External Affairs in 1947, Mr. Gauvin served with distinction in the Canadian Army in the United Kingdom and Northwestern Europe during the Second World War, for which service he was awarded the DSO in 1944. He was discharged with the rank of Major.

Ambassador Gauvin's senior political advisor will be Mr. V. G. Turner who will have the rank of Minister. Mr. Turner, who is a native of Toronto, joined the Department of External Affairs in 1954 and has served as an advisor to the ICSC in Indochina and in various Canadian diplomatic posts in Europe and Africa. Mr. Turner was Chargé d'Affaires in Warsaw in 1963 and currently is Director of the Eastern European Division of the Department of External Affairs.

Mr. R. D. Jackson, the Canadian Commissioner to the existing Commissions for Supervision and Control in Viet-Nam and Laos will continue to serve in that capacity during the initial period.

The first group of Canadian personnel which are leaving Ottawa today is composed of members of the Department of External Affairs and members of the Canadian Armed Forces.

In making this announcement, Mr. Sharp recalled the Government's position with regard to Canada's participation in the new commission for an initial period of sixty days, as expressed in his statement in the House of Commons on January 24, 1973. Mr. Sharp said that during this initial sixty day period the Canadian Delegation will co-operate fully with all other parties concerned and act in every way as a full member of the Commission, accept the

responsibilities that this implies, and acquit itself accordingly. Mr. Sharp noted that the Commission would face many serious difficulties over the next few weeks and he emphasized the nature of the role that the Commission would be expected to play; it would be limited to that of an observer and reporter of the implementation, by the parties, of the truce and cease-fire arrangements they had agreed to. The Commission has no mandate to act in any way to seek physically to restrain any of the parties in any of their actions nor to attempt to force any party to abide by any terms of the Agreement, although it could act in a mediatory role, if requested by the parties concerned, and if the Commission deemed such action useful.

Mr. Sharp expressed the Government's appreciation to all the Canadian personnel involved for their willingness to undertake this important responsibility and for the efficient and prompt manner in which they have been able to fulfil the obligations which have been thrust upon them.

Biographic notes of Mr. Gauvin, Mr. Turner and Mr. Jackson are attached.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

MICHEL GAUVIN

Born in Quebec City April 7, 1919. BL (St. Charles Garnier, Quebec, 1939). Economics and Politics, Laval University (1939-40). Joined the Canadian Army in September 1940 (2/LT). Served in Great Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany (1941-46). Awarded DSO (1944). Discharged with the rank of Major (March 1947); joined the Department of External Affairs as Head Clerk and was seconded to the Prime Minister's Office as French-speaking secretary. Obtained a BA and BPA from Carleton College in 1949. Returned to the Department of External Affairs as Executive Assistant of the Under-Secretary of State (January 1950). Third Secretary, Ankara (June 1951). Second Secretary, Lisbon (June 1953). Advisor to the ICSC, Indochina (December 1955). Served in the first Defence Liaison Division of the Department (January 1956). First Secretary, Caracas (January 1958). Counsellor, Buenos Aires (October 1960). Acting Consul General, Leopoldville (February 1961). Chargé d'Affaires a.i., Leopoldville (June 1962). National Defence College, Kingston (September 1963). Deputy Director of Latin American Division (September 1964 to April 1966). During this period he was sent on special missions to the Congo during the Stanleyville crisis (November 1964) and to the Dominican Republic during the civil war (May-June 1965). Ambassador to Ethiopia (April 1966 to August 1969) with accreditation to the Malagasy Republic (November 1967) and the Somali Republic (June 1968). Ambassador to Portugal (September 1969). Ambassador to Greece (September 1970). Banff School of Advanced Management (February-March 1973). Author of "La Geste du Régiment de la Chaudière" (1945). Divorced. Two sons.

ROBERT DAVID JACKSON

Mr. Jackson was born in England on December 26, 1934. He received a B.A. from the University of British Columbia in 1956 and did graduate work at the University of Hamburg (1956-1957) and the London School of Economics (1957-1960). He joined the Department of External Affairs in July 1960 and after being posted to Berlin from 1961-1963, he served as adviser to the ICSC in Hanoi from 1964 to 1965. He returned to Canada in 1965 and worked in the Disarmament Division; subsequently he attended the National Defence College in Kingston in 1968. In September 1969 he was posted to Laos as Commissioner of the ICSC; since March 1970 he has been the senior External Affairs officer in Hong Kong with title of Trade Commissioner.

VERNON GEORGE TURNER

Born in Toronto, January 6, 1930. BA (University of Toronto, 1952); University of Hamburg and Tübingen, 1952-53; graduate studies in German History (University of Toronto, 1953-54) Joined External Affairs as FSO 1, June 1954. Adviser, ICSC, Indo China, May 1955; Third Secretary, London, November 1956; Second Secretary, April 1957; Ottawa, May 1960 (USA Division); Second Secretary Warsaw, February 1962; First Secretary, April 1962 (Chargé d'Affaires a.i., July 1962 - March 1963); Ottawa, April 1964 (African & Middle Eastern Division); First Secretary, Dar-es-Salaam, May-October 1964; First Secretary, CPMUN, New York, October 1964; Counsellor, April 1967; Ottawa, June 1969 (European Division). Married (Beryl Nation)