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OPENING OF CANADIAN EMBASSY IN BUDAPEST

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, announced today that a Canadian Embassy has been established in Budapest. The establishment of this Embassy follows the announcement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs on April 10, 1972 that Cabinet had approved the opening of an Embassy in Hungary.

The Canadian Ambassador to Hungary is Mr. M.H. Wershof, who is also accredited to Czechoslovakia and who is normally resident in Prague. In his absence from Budapest, the Canadian Embassy will be under the direction of the Chargé d'Affaires a.i., Mr. R. B. Edmonds, who holds the rank of Counsellor.

Biographical notes on Mr. Wershof and Mr. Edmonds are
-- attached.

MAX HIRSCH WERSHOF

Mr. Wershof was born in Ottawa in 1909 and received a B.A., LL.B. and an Hon. LL.D. from the University of Alberta in 1928, 1930 and 1958 respectively. Mr. Wershof was called to the Alberta bar in 1932 and practised law from 1932 to 1936. He was appointed a Q.C. in 1955. He joined External Affairs in 1937 and served abroad in Washington and London before being appointed Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the European Office of the United Nations in Geneva in 1956. From 1957 he was concurrently a member of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna until he returned to Ottawa in 1962. In 1967 Mr. Wershof was appointed Ambassador to Denmark. In Ottawa he served in a number of capacities, including Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, and Departmental Legal Adviser (1954-56, and 1964-67).

Mr. Wershof is married and has one child.

ROBERT BRADFORD EIMONDS

Mr. Edmonds was born on May 8, 1928 in Toronto, Canada. He studied at the University of Toronto where he received a B.A. He subsequently did graduate work at the University of Toronto and at Harvard University.

Mr. Edmonds joined the Department of External Affairs in 1952. He has served abroad in Djakarta and Wellington. He has also served as Senior Political Advisor of the International Commission for the Supervision and Control in Laos. His most recent overseas appointment has been as Counsellor at the Canadian Embassy in Stockholm. Before assuming his responsibilities in Budapest, Mr. Edmonds was assigned at Departmental Headquarters in Ottawa in the Eastern European Division.

Mr. Edmonds is married and has two children.