

GOVERNMENT



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PRESS RELEASE

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 1954.

The Canadian Government today designated the three Canadian representatives for the International Supervisory Commissions for Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia which are to supervise the cease-fire and armistice agreements in Indochina. The final cessation of hostilities took place August 11, 1954.

Mr. Sherwood Lett has been appointed the Canadian representative on the International Supervisory Commission for Vietnam; Mr. Leon Mayrand on the Commission for Laos and Mr. R. M. Macdonnell on that for Cambodia. The Commissioners will have the rank of Ambassador.

Mr. Lett served with gallantry and distinction in the First and Second World Wars, and retired from the Army with the rank of Brigadier. He is Chancellor of the University of British Columbia and a past President of the Vancouver Law Society. He will return to his law practice in Vancouver after a year's absence with the Commission in Vietnam, which is now established at Hanoi.

Mr. R. M. Macdonnell, an Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs has served in Washington, Kuibyshev, Prague and Paris. He attended the preliminary discussions in New Delhi, proceeded to Indochina with the advance mission and is temporarily serving as Acting Commissioner in Vietnam. Meanwhile, the Canadian Trade Commissioner in Hong Kong, Mr. T. R. G. Fletcher, is presently serving as Acting Commissioner in Cambodia.

Mr. Mayrand has been the Canadian Ambassador to Chile since 1951. A member of the Department of External Affairs for twenty years, Mr. Mayrand has held diplomatic appointments in London, Rio de Janeiro and Moscow, as well as Santiago. Mr. Frank Ballachey of the Department of External Affairs, who reached Laos on August 10, is meanwhile serving as Acting Commissioner in the Laotian capital, Vientiane.

SHERWOOD LETT, C.B.E., D.S.O., E.D., LL.D., Brigadier, was born in Iroquois, Ontario, August 1, 1895. He attended the University of British Columbia and Trinity College, Oxford. Brigadier Lett served in the First World War, 1914-19, with the Canadian Expeditionary Force in Canada, England, Belgium and France. In the Second World War, 1939-45, he was with the Canadian Army Overseas in England, and France. Brigadier Lett was wounded at Dieppe in 1942 and in Normandy in 1944. From May 1943 to May 1944, Brigadier Lett was Deputy Chief of the General Staff in Ottawa. Later, he commanded the 4th Canadian Infantry Brigade in the North Pacific Aleutian Islands. Brigadier Lett has been Honorary Colonel Commandant of the Royal Canadian Infantry Corps since 1949. Brigadier Lett was called to the Bar of British Columbia in 1922 and is now a partner in the firm of Davis, Hossie, Lett, Marshall and McLorg. He is a member of the Canadian Bar Association, past president of the Vancouver Bar Association and a Bencher of the British Columbia Law Society. Brigadier Lett is a past president of the Alumni Association of the University of British Columbia of which he is now the Chancellor. He is a director with several companies and on the Advisory Board (B.C.) of the Toronto General Trusts Corporation. He is married and has two daughters. His residence is in Vancouver, British Columbia.

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LEON MAYRAND, LL.D., was born in Montreal, Quebec, on November 1, 1905. He was educated at the College of Montreal, Loyola College and the University of Montreal, in Canada, and at the University of Paris, where he attended as a scholarship student the Ecole Libre des Sciences Politiques, and the London School of Economics. Mr. Mayrand was on the staff of "La Patrie", Montreal, 1934-35, and was a professor of Public International Law at the University of Ottawa from 1935-38. He acted as the Assistant Canadian Agent in the "I'm Alone" case and as Canadian Secretary to the Tribunal in the "Trail Smelter" arbitration. Mr. Mayrand joined the Department of External Affairs in 1934 and has held diplomatic appointments in London, Rio de Janeiro, Moscow and Santiago. He has been the Canadian Ambassador to Chile since May 1951. From April 1949 until his departure for Chile, Mr. Mayrand was an Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs. He has represented Canada at various meetings of the International Joint Commission. Among the international conferences which Mr. Mayrand has attended have been the United Nations Special Session on Palestine, held in New York in 1947 and the General Assemblies of the United Nations in New York in 1949 and 1950. Mr. Mayrand is married and has three children.

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RONALD MACALISTER MACDONNELL, was born in Vernon, British Columbia, on May 11, 1909. He graduated from the University of Manitoba and Oxford and taught at the 1930 session of the Manitoba University Summer School and at St. Paul's College, Winnipeg, 1932-33. Mr. Macdonnell joined the Department of External Affairs in 1934 and has served in Washington, Kuibyshev, Prague and Paris. He has been Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs since September 1952. Mr. Macdonnell was a member of the Canada-United States Permanent Joint Board on Defence from 1944-47. Among the international conferences which Mr. Macdonnell has attended have been the International Civil Aviation Conference, Chicago, 1944; the Interim Council of the Provisional International Civil Aviation Organization, Montreal, 1945; the Canada-United States Conference on Conservation of Fisheries Resources of the Great Lakes, Ottawa, 1945; the Joint Canada-United States Committee on Customs Procedures, Washington, 1946; the General Assembly meetings of the United Nations in New York in 1946 and in Paris in 1948 and 1951; meetings of the General Council and Executive Committee of the International Refugee Organization, Geneva, 1949; and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Information Conference, Paris, 1953. Mr. Macdonnell is married and has four children.

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