

The selection of documents in Volume 24 is guided by the general principles outlined in the Introduction to Volume 7 (pp.ix-xi), as amended in the Introduction to Volume 20 (p. xxiii). In short, the series attempts to provide a “self-contained record of the major foreign policy decisions taken by the Government of Canada,” by concentrating on Canada’s most important bilateral and multilateral relationships and on the major international issues that directly involved Cabinet members and senior bureaucrats in substantive policy decisions.

Despite the fact that nearly five decades have elapsed, significant portions of the key documents pertaining to the acquisition of nuclear weapons included in this volume have not been declassified by the Privy Council Office and the Department of National Defence under the terms of the Access to Information Act. Approximately seventy lines of text from the Cabinet Conclusions of 9 December 1958 [Document 134] and 22 December 1958 [Document 137] discussing Canada’s proposed nuclear weapons policy remain closed to researchers. Four lines of text from the Cabinet Conclusions of 24 January 1958 [Document 120] discussing American military refuelling facilities in Canada have been withheld. The NORAD Terms of Reference attached to Document 45 are also not printed. The names of several private citizens have also been removed from Documents 242, 243, 245, 247, 253, 254, and 459 to protect their identities under the terms of the Privacy Act.

The editorial apparatus employed in this volume remains identical to that described in the Introduction to Volume 9 (p. xix). A dagger (†) indicates a Canadian document that is not printed. Editorial excisions are shown by an ellipse (...). The phrase “group corrupt” indicates decryption problems in the transmission of the original telegram. Words and passages that were struck out by the author, marginal notes, and distribution lists are reproduced as footnotes only when important. Unless otherwise indicated, it is assumed that documents have been read by the intended recipient. Proper and place names are standardized. The editor has silently corrected spelling, capitalization, and punctuation, as well as transcription errors whose meaning is clear from their context. All other editorial additions to the documents are indicated by the use of square brackets. Documents are reprinted in either English or French, depending on their original language.

Many individuals collaborated in the preparation of this volume. The Historical Section continues to rely on the staff of the National Archives of Canada for help in locating relevant records. In particular, Paulette Dozois and Maureen Hoogenraad responded quickly to requests for assistance. At the Privy Council Office, Ciuneas Boyle, the director of the Access to Information and Privacy Division, and Herb Barrett facilitated access to classified Cabinet records for the period and declassified several documents that are printed in this volume. At the Diefenbaker Canada Centre, Bruce Shepard, the Director, Johnson Kong, and Rob Paul provided invaluable assistance during my stay in Saskatoon and responded quickly to many subsequent requests for information. Basil Robinson steered me toward important documentation contained in his personal papers. Finally, Father Jacques Monet, s.j., graciously granted permission for me to view the papers of Jules Léger.

Ted Kelly helped research portions of this volume and supervised the production process with great efficiency. Boris Stipernitz, Liz Turcotte, and Michael Carroll provided invaluable assistance in researching extensive sections of this volume. Christopher Cook conducted archival research and proofread the manuscript. Hector