In 1942, Canada sent ministers to the U.S.S.R. and China. During the war, a single Canadian minister was accredited to a number of Allied governments then functioning in London: Belgium, the Netherlands, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Norway, Poland and Yugoslavia; Canada also received ministers from each of them. After the liberation of France, this minister moved to Paris, with the rank of ambassador. Separate missions are now established in the capitals of all these countries.

Diplomatic relations with Latin America were another wartime development. In 1941, Canadian legations were opened in Brazil and Argentina, and these countries sent their first ministers to Ottawa. Diplomatic representatives were sent to Chile in 1942, to Mexico and Peru in 1944 and to Cuba in 1945. The decision to open missions in Latin America was based not only on the development of intra-American trade but on the conviction that a closer understanding was necessary to the solution of common problems.

Canada's external affairs service continued to expand since the war, embassies were opened in a number of countries and High Commissioners were exhanged with India and Pakistan.

During and after the war, Canada participated in the general trend toward the elevation of legations to embassy status. In 1943, most of its large missions abroad became embassies. Since then certain of the new missions listed above were opened as embassies, while others, such as the missions in Italy and Switzerland, were raised to the rank of embassies later.

Membership in the United Nations has increased Canada's responsibilities outside its own borders and Canada has been represented on various organs of the United Nations from the beginning. After Canada's election to the Security Council in September 1947, a Permanent Canadian Delegation was established in New York in January 1948, and later in the year a small office was opened in Geneva, the European headquarters of the Organization.

In May 1952, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization established a permanent Council in Paris. Canada established a delegation at that time to represent it both on the NATO Council and on the Council of the Organization for European Economic Co-operation. In addition to representation on these permanent international bodies, Canada has sent representatives to a large number of international conferences in recent years and members of the Department have served on international committees.

Members of the Department also have been participating in the supervision of the armistice settlement for Indochina which had been reached at the Geneva Conference in July 1954. Unlike many other countries, Canada developed its diplomatic service before establishing a consular service. The first Canadian consulates were opened in 1940 and 1941 in Greenland and in St. Pierre and Miquelon, in order to allow the Canadian Government to keep in touch with developments in the critical sea approaches to the northern coasts of America. These were both temporary wartime offices, though the office in Godthaab did not close until 1946.