

required. An American request for the creation of a mid-Canada radar fence soon followed. Seizing the initiative, Brooke Claxton, the Minister of National Defence, proposed that Canada build the mid-Canada line by itself in the expectation that doing so would enhance the use of Canadian technology in continental defence and strengthen Canada's hand in dealing with further American requests. The Cabinet Defence Committee supported the minister's proposal.

Although the Canadian government expressed general support for the principle of European integration it was not a subject in which Ottawa was actively engaged (Chapter IX). External Affairs decided not to recommend that a delegation be accredited to the High Authority of the European Coal and Steel Community in the belief that Canada's interests did not justify such representation. Canada showed more interest in the work of the Organization for European Economic Cooperation, especially in discussions of the collective approach to currency convertibility, and in deliberations concerning trade liberalization. In the Middle East, the main issue receiving attention was the sale of arms to Israel.

Relations with the Soviet Union improved somewhat following the death of Joseph Stalin in March (Chapter X). The most visible signs were the easing of travel restrictions for diplomats in that country and the appointment of an ambassador to Ottawa. The Canadian government responded by relaxing its own travel reporting requirements for Soviet officials and by agreeing to appoint an ambassador to Moscow. The thaw also made it possible to settle two long standing Canadian claims concerning the Petsamo nickel mines and mutual aid.

Canada pursued a cautious approach to developments in Indochina (Chapter XI). Although the government had extended qualified recognition to Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam in late 1952, it did not seek an invitation to the five-power military conference held in Honolulu in April which dealt with strategic planning for South East Asia. However, Ottawa was prepared to respond sympathetically to requests from the three states for technical assistance under the Colombo Plan. Relations with Japan focused on arrangements for that country's participation in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the exchange of most-favoured-nation treatment.

Canada extended its relations with Latin America through the despatch of a five-week Trade and Goodwill Mission, headed by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, C.D. Howe (Chapter XII). This event led to renewed debate in External Affairs about the possibility of Canadian participation in the Organization of American States. The prevailing view was that Canada's relations with countries in the region were best pursued on a bilateral basis.

The guidelines followed in selecting documents for this volume are outlined in the Introductions to Volume 7 (pp. ix-xi) and Volume 18 (pp. xxi-xxiii). The bulk of the selection was drawn from the files of the Department of External Affairs. The L.B. Pearson Papers were a valuable source as were the records of the Privy Council Office. Much less useful were the L.S. St. Laurent Papers. Other collections were consulted when required to complete the consideration of individual subjects.