

will go into the question in what I hope will be a practical and positive fashion."³³ Subsequently, Robertson set the inquiry underway. He canvassed the Consul General in New York to discover the sort of work performed by the only Canadian Consulate performing the full range of consular and representational duties.³⁴ The Department further requested that the Canadian Embassy in Washington conduct a survey of the amount of work done on Canada's behalf by the British consuls, and it also asked the Department of Trade and Commerce, Commercial Intelligence Service, to provide information on the work of the Trade Commissioners so that External could discover what kind of trade work the consuls should perform.³⁵

A proposal for the establishment of consular offices in the United States was finally sent to the Under-Secretary on July 7, 1944, by R.M. Macdonnell. In his preamble, Macdonnell set out the general reasons for Canada's expanding the consular service as:

- (1) The importance of Canada's relations with the United States.
- (2) The misunderstanding generated by continued UK representation.
- (3) The unjustifiable burden which Canada was throwing on the UK.
- (4) Canada's status had "increased materially during the war."³⁶

For reasons involving personnel and geographical considerations, Macdonnell further declared the most urgent demand for offices to be in Boston, Detroit, Chicago, Seattle, and either San Francisco or Los Angeles.³⁷

Consular offices, the report noted, should have the same rank as the corresponding British office unless there were a good reason for the British to have a Consulate of superior status. Also, staff was to be provided by both External Affairs and Trade and Commerce in a manner such