

EDITOR'S PREFACE

When the series entitled *Documents on Canadian External Relations*¹ was approaching the 1939-49 decade it was recalled that the 25th anniversary of Newfoundland's confederation with Canada would fall in 1974; it therefore seemed fitting to plan a special Newfoundland volume for publication that year.

It soon became apparent that two volumes would be needed. The confederation story could be properly documented only against the background of relations as they existed during the war and, to a certain extent, before and after it. Before the war relations had been friendly but desultory; with the war they became increasingly close and active. As early as July, 1941, the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs was advising the Prime Minister that "Canada has more varied, more important and more urgent business with Newfoundland than with all the self-governing Dominions in which we maintain High Commissioners put together." The present volume reflects this expansion.²

In comparison with volumes in the regular documents series, the Newfoundland volumes are microcosmic. Although their time-span is relatively long, they are concentrated on a narrow, well-defined subject. Consequently, the documents—many of them at the secondary level of policy formation—expose the history in some depth.

Focus has been sustained on the Canada-Newfoundland aspects as closely as possible; to the extent that there is deviation from this norm, it is toward depiction of the Newfoundland rôle *per se*—in the present volume, in prosecution of the war and in the development of civil aviation. This means that some activities, though included or touched upon, are not completely documented. For example, the story of the Battle of the Atlantic is not really in this volume³ nor is the entire operational story of the Atlantic ferry service.⁴ The United States rôle in the defence of Newfoundland and in the ferry service, though woven into the fabric of the defence chapter, is not fully depicted. Also, the multilateral negotiations which established the postwar

¹ *Documents on Canadian External Relations*. Ottawa, Information Canada, 1967—Citations in the present volume will normally take an abbreviated form, e.g., "See Volume 8, Document 26."

² The documents on confederation will be published when the relevant Cabinet documents, now sequestered because of the "thirty-year rule", can be made public.

³ See Schull, Joseph. *The Far Distant Ships (an official account of Canadian naval operations in the Second World War)*, Ottawa, Queen's Printer, 1961. 527 p.

⁴ The ferry service, in addition to delivering aeroplanes as shown here, was important as a life-line for mail, freight and VIP's travelling on war business.