

Historical affairs

Volume twelve in the series *Documents on Canadian External Relations* was published during the summer. For technical reasons, the twelfth volume (1946) appeared before the ninth, tenth and eleventh volumes, which will cover the second half of the Second World War (1942-45). The mood at the end of hostilities is conveyed clearly in this volume of more than 2,000 pages, two-fifths of which is devoted to the efforts to establish peace in Europe and Japan and to the early activities of the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies.

Research and related work on the three remaining volumes progressed according to the schedule established a few years ago. As planned, the ninth volume (1942-43) is to be published around the middle of 1978, with the tenth and eleventh volumes (1944-45) to follow. The schedule has been rearranged to make room for the second volume of the *Documents on Relations between Canada and Newfoundland (1935-49)*, which is to be published before the tenth and eleventh volumes in the *External Relations* series.

The Department's aim in publishing the record of its foreign policy has been to facilitate university research and teaching in this field. Accordingly, it has made available a selection of documents from a large collection of records. The wide range of subjects treated in these volumes has illustrated the multiplicity of bilateral relations and the complexity of multilateral relations. Produced by professional historians, each of these volumes is a copious record of events reflecting the vagaries of international politics. The series enables researchers and specialists alike to view major political decisions in their global context and to understand the sometimes complex motives behind them.

The benefits to Canada from the publication of a series of this kind are far from negligible. It is one of the best means of making Canada's foreign policy known both at home and abroad. The volumes are available to the public in the major libraries and universities of Canada and in the major universities of a number of countries where Canadian courses are now given.

As in the past, members of the Historical Division represented the Department in universities both in Canada and the United States. Members have been invited to give series of lectures to university audiences or papers at seminars on modern Canadian history and foreign policy. Others have shared the results of their research by publishing original articles.

Particular attention was paid during the past year to the Oral History Program, which was introduced several years ago to complement the written information available. At least a dozen senior officials, either retired or still at work, were interviewed by departmental officers. A number of these interviews were conducted in order to provide material for a book to be published on Norman A. Robertson's contribution to the development of Canada's foreign policy during his long career.

The Division also approved for release a number of manuscripts, theses and articles prepared on the basis of research among departmental files and it was responsible for granting access to files under certain conditions; more than 50 professors and doctoral students were given permission to consult the files during 1977. The Division arranged interviews with members of the Department acquainted with various files in order to provide researchers with additional information. It gave oral and written replies to numerous requests from professors, journalists and researchers, about 60 of which were received each month.

During the year, the Division was preparing for the transfer to the Public Archives of files covering the period 1940-48; about 60,000 files will soon be added to the Public Archives holdings.

In the course of the year, the Canadian section of the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) published the report of the Geography Commission meeting held in Ottawa in May 1975. With the co-operation of PAIGH headquarters in Mexico City, the report was sent to universities and national libraries of all countries in the hemisphere. A Canadian delegation participated in the PAIGH General Assembly, which was held in Quito from August 15 to 30. Canada was chosen for a second time as the host of the Geography Commission, and Professor Harold Wood of McMaster University was given a second four-year term as president of the Commission.