

record and forged strong links with the academic community. During the late 1920s and 1930s, Skelton lured a noteworthy group of young academics into the Department, including Lester B. Pearson, Norman Robertson, Hume Wrong and Escott Reid. The ties between professors and diplomats were strengthened during the Second World War when the Department drew heavily on Canada's small academic community to deal with the expanded work load created by the war. The experience helped ensure a close and co-operative relationship between the Department and the university community. This mutually beneficial relationship is one that the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade remains determined to foster and develop.

The Department's close links with the academic community have left other legacies, among them the series *Documents on Canadian External Relations*. The idea for a documentary series was first suggested by Fred Soward, an outstanding teacher at the University of British Columbia. Soward, who spent several years in the Department of External Affairs as a special wartime assistant, thought that the rich historical material in the Department's archives might usefully illustrate Canada's march to nationhood during the first part of the 20th century. Although the idea languished for several years, it was revived in the mid-1950s by George Glazebrook, a University of Toronto historian who had pioneered the study of Canadian foreign policy before joining the Department during the Second World War. The Department welcomed the prospect of a documentary series. It was seen as a suitable means of acknowledging Canada's growing international role and its expanding responsibilities. More important, the documentary volumes allowed the Department of External Affairs, which was sometimes perceived as unnecessarily secretive, to respond to public demands for greater access to its records.

Today, more than ever, the Department remains committed to the values of openness and transparency that provide much of the rationale for the publication of *Documents on Canadian External Relations*. Since the first volume in the series was published in 1967, this collection has become an important source for the study of Canada's foreign policy. It represents the basic published record of the foreign relations of the Government of Canada, and provides a comprehensive, self-contained account of Canada's major foreign policy decisions and their underlying rationale. Edited by professional historians in the Historical Section, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the series is used by scholars in Canada and around the world to explore the evolution of Canadian diplomacy during