

Nations since its foundation was the election of L.B. Pearson as President of the Seventh Session of the General Assembly in October 1952.

The delegation's participation in certain issues at the United Nations required the involvement of departments other than External Affairs (Chapter IV). While working relations with other departments were generally cooperative, on occasion there were differences. This was the case with regard to the Disarmament Commission. Because of the unwillingness of National Defence officials to cooperate in the formulation of policy, the delegation was unable to participate fully in that body's deliberations. Similarly, External Affairs and the Department of Finance were at odds over the principles governing voluntary contributions to United Nations agencies. External viewed with some concern attempts by Finance to attach strict financial performance criteria to Canada's contributions. It favoured a more flexible approach which would facilitate the operation of worthwhile programs. Within functional international organizations, the two departments were in general agreement that well-conceived programs, sound budgetary and administrative practices, and equitable financial contributions by participating states were important in ensuring effective operation.

The reorganization of NATO which resulted in the creation of a secretariat, headed by a Secretary-General and a permanent council, headquartered in Paris, required the establishment of a permanent Canadian delegation to the organization (Chapter V). One of the major matters occupying the delegation and policy makers in Ottawa during 1952 was the question of working out satisfactory arrangements for consultation between the "Big Three" (the United States, the United Kingdom and France) and the other members of the alliance. Although Ottawa was interested in establishing suitable liaison arrangements between NATO countries and Australia and New Zealand, it remained opposed to extending the alliance's responsibilities to the dependencies of European powers. On this basis Prime Minister St. Laurent strongly opposed a French request to direct to Indochina military assistance offered to France as mutual aid.

The Canadian government was engaged in negotiations for air agreements with Mexico and Peru, which would establish new links with those countries (Chapter VI). In addition, Ottawa had to deal with a concerted attempt by a group of Arab, European and Latin American states at the Sixth Session of the International Civil Aviation Organization to transfer the organization's headquarters from Montreal to Europe or Latin America. The group's main goal was to lessen the influence of the United States in civil aviation matters. Also important was the cost of maintaining the headquarters in Montreal, and the refusal of Premier Maurice Duplessis' government and the City of Montreal to grant privileges and immunities falling within their jurisdiction to the organization and its employees, a factor that constrained Ottawa's capacity to deal with concerns that were raised. The Assembly narrowly defeated the proposal.

Commonwealth relations were primarily concerned with economic issues following the balance of payment crisis experienced by several sterling bloc