

Canada for the first time asserted its right to sign as well as negotiate its own international agreements. In 1925, an officer was stationed in Geneva to represent Canada at international conferences and to monitor the activities of the League of Nations and the International Labour Office. Canadian legations were opened in Washington in 1927, in Paris in 1928 and in Tokyo in 1929. Slowly, during this first inter-War decade, as Canada assumed more and more responsibility for the conduct of its own diplomacy, a Canadian persona emerged on the international stage and, to all intents and purposes, the Department of External Affairs became the Canadian foreign office presaged in the original legislation of 1909.

The first major period of growth in personnel occurred during the late 1920s and early 1930s. Under the leadership of Dr. O.D. Skelton, a cadre of bright young men was recruited to form the nucleus of Canada's foreign service. Never before had the Canadian public service attracted such highly qualified candidates. In the 15 years that Skelton was Under Secretary, 31 of his 40 career officers had post-graduate degrees from universities outside Canada and half of these had studied at two or more foreign universities. Twenty-two had studied in Britain, of whom seven were Rhodes scholars. Eleven others had studied in France and eight in the United States. Nineteen had taught in universities, 10 had practised law, eight had seen military service and six had previously been public servants. Prime Minister King noted in his diary in August, 1929 that the department had expanded "into the most conspicuous and in some respects the most important department of government."

An organization chart for July, 1929 is instructive. Apart from the addition later that year of John Read as the department's legal advisor, this basic organization lasted into World War II.

In practice, of course, the division of labour could not be so neatly categorized. Dr. Skelton assigned work indiscriminately. For example, Lester Pearson's duties that year also included lighthouses in the Red Sea, international tariffs on cement, the nationality of Anglo-Chinese children living in Canada, aviation licences in Canada and Switzerland and the protection of young female artists travelling abroad. Everyone was directly responsible to the Under-Secretary. Every letter and telegram came in and went out over his desk and he alone was responsible for every recommendation to the Prime Minister.

These developments all prepared the Department to handle the massive growth in activity that accompanied the onset of World War II. New and substantive responsibilities such as intelligence and censorship were added to the Department's mandate. External services were greatly expanded as well. In 1939, there were 11 Canadian posts abroad; in 1945, there were 26. After Canada's separate declaration of war on 10 September 1939, High Commissioners were sent to Australia, Ireland, New Zealand and South Africa. In 1942, Ministers were appointed to the USSR and to China. Ministers also were accredited to a number of allied governments then located in London or Cairo: Belgium, the Netherlands, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Norway, Poland and Yugoslavia. After the liberation of France, the Canadian Minister, following a period in Algiers as representative to the French Committee of Na-

Position	Occupant	Duties
Under-Secretary	O.D. Skelton	General
Assistant Under-Secretary	W.H. Walker	General, passports, immigration, consular appointments
Advisor	L. Beaudrey	United States, France, and the Continent, Treaties
First Secretary	L.B. Pearson	British Empire and League of Nations
Second or Third Secretary	H.L. Keenleyside	United States, Asia