

lines of the cold war. Whether the question was the admission of new members to the United Nations or an attempt to resolve conflicts in Palestine, Indonesia, Korea or Kashmir, the Canadian delegation often found itself in the front lines of a rhetorical contest between opposing ideologies.

"Today there is only one possible aggressor," Brooke Claxton told the House of Commons on 24 June 1948, "the only war in which Canada would take part would be a world war, a total war."<sup>4</sup> Canadian negotiators played an important part in the elaboration of that form of collective security, the North Atlantic Treaty, which was devised to counter the Soviet threat. Those negotiations took place in three phases: tripartite meetings in March involving the United States, Britain and Canada; meetings of the Ambassadors in Washington of these countries with other signatories of the Brussels Treaty during the summer; and further meetings of Ambassadors which had not concluded when the year ended. The State Department prepared minutes of the meetings of Ambassadors, which have been published in the *Foreign Relations of the United States* (1948, Volume III). Rather than duplicate that record, I have relied on Canadian reports of the discussions and negotiations, supplemented by some minutes of the working groups prepared by the Canadian Embassy. Two published accounts, *Time of Fear and Hope* (Toronto, 1977) by Escott Reid and *In Defence of Canada: Growing Up Allied* (Toronto, 1980) by James Eays, have made use of some of this material. What is printed here adds some shading and nuance to those versions of events, though not significant differences. To reflect the importance of this subject to policy-makers in Ottawa and to preserve balance within this overview of Canada's international relations, I decided to cover these negotiations as completely as possible.

Although this chapter begins with a familiar tribulation for Mackenzie King — the British tendency to generalize about the attitudes, interests and commitments of the Commonwealth — it is noteworthy that the Prime Minister was not so hesitant in his response (Document 298) to the appeal from the British Prime Minister, Clement Attlee, to participate in the preliminary discussions about North Atlantic security (Document 296). Indeed, King even contrived to link the possibility of economic cooperation under a North Atlantic Treaty to the abandonment of Canadian-American free trade (Documents 323, 647 and 648). Ever mindful of the Prime Minister's traditional wariness about commitments real or imagined, Pearson frequently emphasised the non-committal nature of the talks. In the autumn, Reid attempted to persuade his colleagues, his Minister and his acting Minister that the Cabinet should endorse a comprehensive package of documents on this subject. Some sense of the tensions evoked by this exercise can be found in Reid's appeal to Pearson (Document 425) and Claxton's telephone conversation with Hume Wrong (Document 441) as well as the comments on drafting (particularly Norman Robertson's cutting remarks in Document 414).

In the midst of this flurry of activity, Heeney wrote privately to Pearson that 'the combination of your acting Minister and acting Under-Secretary is pretty exhausting as you can imagine. The production of papers and the volume thereof has struck an all time high I should think and the North Atlantic crusade which you started is

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<sup>4</sup>House of Commons, *Debates*, 24 June 1948, 5782-5783.