



and the Netherlands were closed and staff evacuated, often under harrowing circumstances. In 1942, a mission under Georges Vanier was established in London to the many European governments-in-exile, and new posts were opened in the Soviet Union and China, allies in the vast war against fascism. Finally, a consulate general was opened in New York in 1943, in part to provide accurate information to Americans about Canada's role in the war.

With access to Europe sharply curtailed, Latin America now assumed new importance as a market for Canadian exports and a source of supplies. Over the course of the war, Ottawa opened missions in Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, Peru, Cuba, and Venezuela.

The outbreak of war also meant a great increase in the Department's responsibilities in Canada. It quickly became involved in a

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²⁶ In October 1942, Dana Wilgress, a former deputy minister of trade and commerce, became Canada's first minister (and later ambassador) to the Soviet Union. He is shown here with Montreal businessman R.A. Davies (right) in front of the Canadian mission in Moscow in 1944. (Source: Library and Archives Canada, C-075254)

²⁷ Norman Robertson, who became under-secretary in 1941, is shown here with Prime Minister Mackenzie King (right) in 1944. Robertson reorganized the wartime Department, turning it into an arm of modern government for the first time. (Source: Library and Archives Canada, C-015134)