

and his External colleagues in New York became very active in shaping UN policy for Korea. Norman established a good rapport with the representative of the UN Secretary-General in the Far East, and also with the commander of the British forces. His telegrams about the fighting tended to be gloomy, and he regretted the fact that war talk now dominated diplomatic discourse in Tokyo; many he reported, seemed to expect World War III at any moment, and no one was interested in long term planning for peace. There was no hint of anything less than full commitment to the UN's collective security action in Korea, but he became sharply critical of MacArthur's decision to cross the 38th parallel and approach the Yalu River border with China. So too did most other Canadians.

From the moment of his recall in October 1950, Norman became a marked and haunted man. Although fully cleared, and even given "SA" clearance by the RCMP, a status beyond "Top Secret," Norman presented External's top management with a delicate problem. While satisfied about his loyalty, they recognized that the Americans, and possibly the British, would continue to be suspicious. Lacking allied confidence, and consequently access to certain classified material, his utility was limited. Several authors, including Professors Barros and Jack Granatstein, (64) have expressed surprise that Norman was quickly entrusted with the "critical and sensitive" headship of the American and Far Eastern Division, and Barros sees more than coincidence in the fact that his opposite number in London was Donald Maclean, soon to be fleeing to his spiritual home in the Soviet Union. They should not have worried. A memo to file from Evan Gill, External's head of personnel, recorded a scolding for indolence administered to Norman who, it had been observed, was absent from his desk by five o'clock every day! Norman's plausible defence was that all the important matters, like defence and trade, went to the functional divisions, leaving him a light basket. Care had been taken, as it happens, to ensure that some matters normally assigned to the US Division were channelled elsewhere, while Norman was given extra research to fill his time. Gill had been clearly unaware of the real "Norman" problem, and was perhaps the only person who ever accused him of not pulling his weight; Norman read, absorbed and wrote at such speed that he often made chores seem easy. Two of his closest working associates have described him as a "genius."

Once, when working in 1943 as head of the Japanese section of External's "Examination Unit," he had been ticked off by T.A. Stone for doing too much. He had submitted an unrequested study about the situation in Germany; Norman explained in a pained defence that he possessed an "insatiable curiosity," and also that he had found in his scholarship that it was often illuminating to compare seemingly different