

External Affairs about Soviet intentions and Western strategies for containment. A widely-circulated paper prepared in the Department ultimately called for the West to adopt a “patient and piecemeal approach” within a “grand and imaginative design” to secure East-West cooperation [Document 520].

For the first three months of the Conservative mandate, John Diefenbaker held the portfolio of Secretary of State for External Affairs in addition to his duties as Prime Minister. Throughout his term in office, Diefenbaker maintained a keen interest in international affairs and insisted on personally addressing critical foreign policy issues himself, as evidenced by his handling of the NORAD and CF-105 situations. Diefenbaker’s tendency to make key foreign policy decisions also resulted from his suspicion of senior Department of External Affairs officials, some of whom he viewed as “Pearsonalities” due to their perceived allegiance to their former political master. As a result, Robert Bryce arranged in August 1957 to have H. Basil Robinson appointed as a full-time liaison between the Prime Minister’s Office and the Department, a responsibility that Robinson handled with distinction. In September 1957, Diefenbaker selected Sidney Smith, President of the University of Toronto, to fill the position of Secretary of State for External Affairs. An able academic administrator, Smith failed to carve out an independent role for himself as foreign minister before his sudden death in March of 1959.

Both Diefenbaker and Smith were able to draw on the advice of a veteran group of senior External Affairs officials during the first eighteen months of the Progressive Conservative administration. Jules Léger continued to serve as Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs until Norman Robertson replaced him in October 1958. R.M. Macdonnell assisted Léger and Robertson as Deputy Under-Secretary from September 1958 (this position had been vacant from May 1957). The Department depended on the services of four Assistant Under-Secretaries during the period covered by this volume: John Holmes, Douglas LePan, W.D. Matthews, and Marcel Cadieux. Cadieux also served as the Department’s Legal Adviser.

No major changes in representation occurred at Canada’s most important posts abroad until the autumn of 1958. Norman Robertson served as Ambassador in Washington until 10 October 1958 before he returned to Ottawa to assume his duties as Under-Secretary. A.D.P. Heeney replaced Robertson in Washington. Jules Léger left Ottawa to become Canada’s Permanent Representative to the North Atlantic Council and Representative to the Organization for European Economic Cooperation in September 1958; he replaced the retiring Dana Wilgress in these posts. In June 1957, Diefenbaker appointed George Drew as High Commissioner to the United Kingdom. David Johnson served as Canada’s Ambassador in Moscow from September 1957.

Documents in this volume were selected primarily from the records of the Department of External Affairs and the Privy Council Office. Additional documents were chosen from the files of the departments of Trade and Commerce and Citizenship and Immigration, and from the private papers of Cabinet ministers and senior government officials. In preparing this volume, I was given unrestricted access to the files of the Department of External Affairs and generous access to other collections. A complete list of the archival sources consulted to prepare this volume is found on page xxv.