

Pearson remained the most important member of the government's foreign policy team. In his absence, Paul Martin, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, continued to represent him in Cabinet and abroad. In the fall of 1956, Martin toured South Asia and Indochina, an experience that affected him deeply and long influenced his view of Asian Communism. [Document 673] Other ministers with notable foreign policy responsibilities included Ralph Campney, the Minister of National Defence, C.D. Howe, the powerful Minister of Trade and Commerce, and Walter Harris, the Minister of Finance, and a leading contender in the undeclared race to succeed St. Laurent.

During his final 18 months as Secretary of State for External Affairs, Pearson was able to draw on the advice of the experienced group of senior officials with whom he had worked closely for years. Jules Léger stayed on as Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, assisted by his deputy, R.M. Macdonnell. There were, however, important changes at the assistant under-secretarial level. In late 1955, W.D. Matthews, the Minister to Sweden and Finland, was promoted to Assistant Under-Secretary. In June 1956, John Watkins returned from his post as Ambassador to the Soviet Union and was appointed Assistant Under-Secretary to replace Jean Chapdelaine, who took over from Matthews as Minister to Sweden and Finland. In December 1956, Marcel Cadieux became Assistant Under-Secretary and Legal Advisor in place of Max Wershof, who went to Geneva as Permanent Representative to the European Office of the United Nations. And finally, in April 1957, Douglas LePan, who had finished his work as Secretary to the Royal Commission on Canada's Economic Prospects, was promoted to Assistant Under-Secretary. John Holmes alone remained an Assistant Under-Secretary throughout the period covered in this volume.

There was no change in representation at Canada's major posts abroad until late in the spring of 1957. Dana Wilgress remained Permanent Representative to the North Atlantic Council and Representative to the Organization for European Economic Co-operation. Norman A. Robertson stayed in London as High Commissioner to the United Kingdom until May 1957, when he replaced Arnold Heeney in Washington as Ambassador to the United States. Heeney returned to Ottawa as Chairman of the Civil Service Commission. Georges Vanier continued as Ambassador to France.

Like other recent volumes in this series, Volume 23 is based primarily on the records of the Department of External Affairs and the Privy Council Office. These were supplemented where necessary by the private papers of Cabinet ministers and senior officials, and the files of the Departments of National Defence, Finance, Citizenship and Immigration, and Trade and Commerce. In preparing this volume, I was given complete access to the files of the Department of External Affairs and generous access to other collections. A complete list of the archival sources consulted in the preparation of this volume may be found on page xxvii.

The selection of documents is guided by the general principles outlined in the Introduction to Volume 7 (pp. ix-xi), as amended in the Introduction to Volume 20 (p. xxiii). In short, the series tries to provide a "self-contained record of the major foreign policy decisions taken by the Government of Canada," by concentrating on Canada's most important bilateral and multilateral relationships and on the major international issues that directly involved Cabinet members in substantive policy decisions.