

The government took a great interest in the operations of the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies (Chapter IV). As the examples of the International Labour Organization and the World Health Organization show, Canadian delegations consistently promoted the importance of sound administrative practices consistent with the agencies' purposes and the willingness of member states to provide the necessary financial support on an equitable basis.

Consultation remained a priority in NATO (Chapter V), but Canadian officials recognized that discussion of major issues in the North Atlantic Council before agreement had been reached among the leading powers would make consensus more difficult to achieve (document 484). In such instances it was accepted that consultations would normally be initiated on a bilateral basis outside of the Council. The government also considered a Norwegian proposal for the creation of a NATO parliamentary assembly. After initially expressing interest in the idea it decided to support another proposal calling for informal methods of contact between the organization and parliamentarians from the member states.

Air services agreements were concluded with Mexico and Peru (Chapter VI). Anticipating the renewal of a campaign to remove the headquarters of the International Civil Aviation Organization from Montreal, the government despatched a strong delegation to the Seventh Session of the agency's Assembly held in Brighton, England in June. However, the issue did not arise.

Commonwealth heads of government met in London in June, following the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, to discuss the international situation (Chapter VII). During the meetings St. Laurent tentatively accepted an invitation from Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to visit India the following year. This journey, for which planning began in September, eventually grew to include a number of stops in Europe and Asia. Colombo Plan matters received considerable attention in Ottawa. Capital and technical assistance programmes for India, Pakistan and Ceylon were approved and negotiations for future projects undertaken.

Economic and strategic issues dominated the Canadian-American agenda (Chapter VIII). Ottawa viewed with some alarm the new Republican administration's apparent lack of enthusiasm for multilateral trade liberalization. This was reinforced by a surge of protectionist pressures in the United States which threatened a number of Canadian exports to that country. St. Laurent expressed concern about American commercial policy when he and Pearson met with President Dwight Eisenhower and his cabinet colleagues in Washington in May. The Americans surprised their Canadian visitors by proposing that their governments study the feasibility of bilateral free trade. Ottawa rejected the overture but the two governments followed up a suggestion made by Pearson at the May summit meeting by establishing the Joint United States-Canadian Committee on Trade and Economic Affairs.

North American air defence collaboration continued to expand in response to the Soviet Union's growing military capabilities. In early 1953 Ottawa agreed to permit the building of two experimental radar stations on Canadian territory to test the feasibility of an early warning radar system in the far north. Studies carried out in the United States that summer recommended the construction of an early warning line along the 55th parallel to be followed by a distant early warning system when