

The fourth gap in the documentation comprises relations with countries that were so amiable that, in the absence of conflict or a change in the status of the relationship, reports from the post became travelogues or condensations of local news. This type of report is helpful for the study of individual diplomats, administration and the perceptions upon which policy recommendations were made but, being devoid of Canadian content, they have little relevance for this collection. Consequently only samples of this kind of report have been included, such as the three fascinating documents revealing the trials and tribulations of one Canadian diplomat in Nanking.

The fifth deliberate omission in this volume pertains to Newfoundland. After this series began, the Department of External Affairs decided to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the confederation of Newfoundland with Canada by undertaking the production of two volumes of documents on Canada's relations with Newfoundland in the pre-confederation period. Since both of these volumes cover the period of this volume, unnecessary duplication was avoided by excluding, except incidentally, documents relating to Newfoundland as readers would naturally wish to consult the more extensive collection.

The final category of omissions deals with documents associated with the signing of minor treaties. These include ratification procedures, submissions to Council, and the granting of full powers to sign agreements on behalf of Canada. Here the procedure is very repetitious and the texts of the treaties are readily available in the *Treaty Series*. Researchers wishing to follow through this aspect of treaty-making are referred to the Legal Precedents and Rulings File in the Legal Library of the Department of External Affairs.

Users of this volume are reminded of the change in attitude toward public information that occurred at this time. In pre-war years the Department and the Prime Minister did their best to cloud their activities in secrecy. The public received little more than the results of policy initiatives as recorded in the *Treaty Series* and Orders in Council. By 1946 and thanks to the inclinations of St. Laurent and Pearson some of the cloud cover was rolled back. Brief debates on foreign affairs in the House of Commons were permitted by the Prime Minister. The Standing Committee on External Affairs that emerged after the division of the old Standing Committee on Industrial and International Relations in the previous year was now allowed to examine the Department's operations and a selection of its policies. Weekly press briefings were inaugurated along with the publication of *Statements and Speeches*. There has been no attempt made to duplicate these sources in this volume but the reader is encouraged to use them in tandem.

The broader picture of Canada's external relations into which these documents must fit is found in a number of readily available sources. Of special note are the accounts written later by the actors themselves, such as Lester Pearson, Arnold Heeney, Escott Reid, Dana Wilgress, Maurice Pope, and the more numerous pieces about them. Of primary importance is the third volume of *The Mackenzie King Record*. In the absence of proper minutes of Cabinet meetings as opposed to records of decisions, and notes for the file