

moved to Paris and the Organization for European Economic Cooperation (Documents 622 to 641) and then back to Washington, where Commonwealth and American officials met to compare notes and plot strategy (Documents 227, 230 and 231). The process of consultation and negotiation culminated in Geneva late in the year when GATT's contracting parties met to review and strengthen the international agreement (Documents 218 to 235).

The personal, political and bureaucratic relationships that had shaped Canadian policy in 1953 changed dramatically in 1954. St. Laurent, exhausted from his world tour, left more and more of the conduct of external policy to Pearson. A cabinet shuffle in July brought new ministers into two portfolios with important foreign policy implications. After his long struggle to manage Canada's contribution to the UN effort in Korea, Claxton was succeeded by Ralph Campney as Minister of National Defence. Walter Harris, who disliked the "continuous social activity" associated with his new international responsibilities, replaced Douglas Abbott as Minister of Finance (Document 387). The ubiquitous C.D. Howe remained Minister of Trade and Commerce and Minister of Defence Production.

For most of the year, responsibilities within the senior ranks of the Department of External Affairs remained unsettled. To compensate for the vacancy left by Hume Wrong, who died suddenly in December 1953 after only two weeks as Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, Pearson appointed R.A. MacKay Deputy Under-Secretary in January 1954. The effective head of the department for most of the year, MacKay was aided by three new Assistant Under-Secretaries: John Holmes, Jean A. Chapdelaine and Max H. Wershof, who also served as legal advisor. In April, MacKay was named Associate Under-Secretary and Jules Léger, the Ambassador to Mexico, was recalled to become Pearson's deputy. He took up his duties in mid-August. In selecting the 41-year old Léger, Pearson was anxious to "have a young and vigorous Under-Secretary, the first from Quebec, and one who would normally be in the job for a long time, content, I take it, with the prospect of being a 'permanent' Under-Secretary and not a bird of passage to an Embassy!"<sup>7</sup>

There were no changes in leadership at Canada's most important posts. David M. Johnson continued as Permanent Representative to the United Nations and Dana Wilgress remained Permanent Representative to the North Atlantic Council and Representative to the Organization for European Economic Cooperation. N.A. Robertson served as High Commissioner to the United Kingdom. Georges Vanier and Arnold Heeney remained ambassadors in Paris and in Washington, respectively. Tragically, Jack Thurrott became the first Canadian Foreign Service Officer to die on duty when his jeep hit a mine while on a patrol for the International Commission for Supervision and Control in Indochina.

The records of the Department of External Affairs and the Privy Council Office provided most of the material for this look at Canadian foreign policy. These sources were supplemented where necessary by the personal papers of many of the Cabinet ministers and senior officials involved in these events and by the records of

---

<sup>7</sup> Quoted in John Hilliker and Donald Barry, *Canada's Department of External Affairs, II: Coming of Age, 1946-1968* (Montreal and Kingston, 1995), p. 90.