

PREFACE

Canadian Representation at the United Nations

The Permanent Delegation in New York

When Canada began its two-year term as a member of the Security Council on January 1, 1948, the Canadian Government decided to establish in New York a Canadian Permanent Delegation to the United Nations. The Delegation fulfils two main functions. It is called upon to represent Canada on most of the United Nations bodies meeting in New York; and it has important responsibilities for liaison with the United Nations Secretariat and with the permanent delegations maintained in New York by other member governments.

During 1948 and 1949, the Delegation represented Canada on the Security Council; on the Atomic Energy Commission (of which Canada is a permanent member); on the Commission for Conventional Armaments (on which Canada served during its term on the Security Council); on the Interim Committee, on which all fifty-nine member states have the right to be represented; and on a number of other commissions, special committees and sub-committees to which Canada was elected from time to time. The Chairman of the Permanent Delegation and the small group of three or four advisers also serve as a nucleus of Canadian representation to the annual sessions of the General Assembly, where their specialized knowledge and personal contacts provide valuable experience and continuity.

Although Canada's two-year term on the Security Council ended on December 31, 1949, there is no intention of withdrawing Canada's Permanent Delegation from New York. For one thing, the Government will continue to require observer reports on the activities of the Security Council. For another, Canada's election to a second three-year term on the Economic and Social Council, beginning January 1, 1950, has in itself conferred certain responsibilities on the Permanent Delegation.

Apart, too, from the broad range of its representational duties, the Permanent Delegation performs a liaison function which is perhaps its most important single task. The headquarters of the United Nations in New York has become a highly important diplomatic centre. Some fifty member countries maintain permanent representatives to the United Nations who, as a general rule, exert considerable influence on the foreign policies of their governments. There are few diplomatic capitals from which it is possible to derive such a steady and authoritative flow of first-hand information on political, social and economic issues of international concern. In addition to this association with representatives from other member countries, the Delegation also maintains very useful contact with the United Nations Secretariat. In the performance of these important liaison duties and in its representational functions, the Permanent Delegation ensures the protection of Canadian interests at the United Nations, keeps the Government informed on international developments over a wide range of subjects, and acts as a link providing continuity and balance at conferences held throughout the year under the auspices of the United Nations.