

National Archives of the United Kingdom, London. Internal British government documents, particularly correspondence between the CO and the Foreign Office (FO), shed a great deal of new light on Arctic matters. Regular *DCER* volumes do not print non-Canadian documents, but this rule has been dispensed with here for the years until 1931, when the Statute of Westminster effectively separated Canadian foreign policy from British foreign policy. A complete list of sources can be found on pp. lxxvii-lxxviii. (Original documents have been used whenever possible because they are the most likely to bear marginal comments and other significant notations, and because handwritten or typed copies of early documents are sometimes inaccurate. When only a copy was found, the fact is noted in the document heading.) Over the years, many Canadian officials expressed uncertainty and apprehension about the possible intentions of the United States in the Arctic. Although no US documents are printed, the relevant files in Washington have been examined, and information from them is included in the footnotes.

Unfortunately, there are still a few significant gaps in the record, especially for the period before the First World War. Many important documents and files have simply disappeared. Nevertheless, the research for this book has produced a far richer, more detailed, and better contextualized account of how and why Canada's Arctic policy developed than could be gleaned from existing *DCER* volumes up to the Second World War period.

From Volume 7 (1939-1941, Part I) onwards, coverage of the Arctic in the series improved dramatically. Consequently, relatively few new documents of major importance were found for this period, and Part 6 (1940-1949) is the shortest in the book, despite the great significance of this period in Arctic history. The appendix to Part 6 lists the Arctic-related documents in Volumes 7 to 15 (1949) under broad subject headings.

Many of the documents in Parts 1 to 5 have previously been cited by historians, and some were printed in the early *DCER* volumes or elsewhere, but many others are completely new. Previously printed documents that are essential to understanding an issue have been reprinted in these sections, while some others are referenced in the footnotes. In Part 6, however, reprinting from earlier *DCERs* was not feasible owing to the very large number of important documents in the existing volumes. The full list of previously printed *DCER* Arctic documents in the appendix to this part has been provided in place of reprinting.

The new documents will contribute to a revised understanding of Canada's Arctic policy: besides being important in themselves, in many cases they provide more accurate context for, and suggest different interpretations of, documents that have long been known to researchers. More detailed comments on the significance of the material in the various parts, and on the reasons for the occasional gaps in the record, are found below.

All writers on the Arctic struggle with the definition of what exactly "the Arctic" means in geographical terms. For the purposes of this volume, the