

and report on how to strengthen non-military cooperation within the Alliance. (Documents 520 to 543) In the wake of Suez, however, Canada enjoyed less influence in London, and watched from the sidelines as Britain unilaterally reduced the number of its troops stationed in Europe in February 1957. (Documents 585 to 600)

Chapter three explores some of the more routine matters associated with Canada's membership in the North Atlantic Alliance, such as Ottawa's important mutual aid contributions. In contrast to earlier volumes in this series, the focus is increasingly on the politics of disengagement as Europe's postwar recovery and the declining Soviet threat made military assistance less necessary. In the spring of 1956, Cabinet cancelled the largest single item on Canada's mutual aid account, the Royal Canadian Air Force's extensive air training plan. (Documents 443 to 450) At the same time, as the sections on the export of Canadian-built fighters to Belgium and Germany demonstrate, Ottawa remained ready to use its military aid budget to subsidize exports by Canada's defence industry.

Chapter four, which covers relations with the Commonwealth, also devotes substantial space to Middle Eastern questions. The region was discussed in some detail during Eden's visit to Ottawa in February 1956 (Document 696) and at the Commonwealth prime ministers' meeting the following June. (Document 646) In this final moment of international calm before the proverbial storm, Pearson, who accompanied St. Laurent to London, was wryly amused to find "most of the visitors preoccupied with Wimbledon, Lords and the Canada Cup." (Document 643)

The Suez Crisis and its repercussions cast a long shadow and the chapter includes extensive documentation on Britain's request for a waiver on interest payments on the large loan extended to London in 1946. This section traces Canada's specific efforts to renegotiate the loan, as well as Ottawa's attitude to the general problem of Britain's financial collapse and its search for relief from the International Monetary Fund. (Document 704) The chapter also reprints material on Nehru's December 1956 visit to Ottawa, and Pearson's unsuccessful efforts to enlist the wily Indian prime minister into the Middle East peace process. (Document 692) Finally, the Commonwealth chapter includes a lengthy report on St. Laurent's meeting in Bermuda with Eden's successor, Prime Minister Harold Macmillan, in March 1957. The meetings allowed the Canadian delegation, which included Pearson, C.D. Howe, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, and Robert Bryce, the Secretary to the Cabinet, their first real look at the new British prime minister, and gave the two countries the chance to exchange views on a number of issues, including the Middle East. (Document 735)

Canadian policy-makers were well aware that Arab-Israeli tensions merely mirrored the strains associated with decolonization in general. Tensions between the colonial and anti-colonial powers, argued Deputy Under-Secretary R.M. Macdonnell in May 1956 "may well be the most vital issue in international politics today." (Document 41) For this reason, colonialism and its legacy are also principal themes in the Commonwealth chapter. In addition to the usual documentation on Canada's contribution to the Colombo Plan, Ottawa's main point of contact with the newly independent nations of Asia and Africa, there are several broad assessments of Canadian aid policy. The first, by Canada's High Commissioner to India, Escott Reid, neatly summarizes the Canadian contribution to Indian development since 1950. (Document 665) It is balanced by a more impassioned defence of Canadian aid to Pakistan, whose severely impoverished colonial inheritance made bilateral cooperation extremely difficult.