

On occasion the documents reveal a conflict of position on the policy to be pursued. On other occasions the documents may leave the reader wondering about their genesis and outcome. The prime example is Documents 14 and 15. The first proposes an exchange of legations with China; the second cancels the proposal. The Editor can find nothing to explain this mysterious and short-lived episode.

No claim is made that the almost one thousand documents of this volume are in some way the essential documents of Canadian external affairs in the period. Any other editor's selection would vary from this one in a number of particulars; for selection is a subjective process within the parameters of the historical discipline. The Editor hopes that this selection is sufficiently representative to be of value to the student of Canadian foreign policy in the examination of his subject.

In carrying out his work the Editor has had full and free access to the relevant papers of the Department of External Affairs and the related collections in the Public Archives of Canada, notably the so-called Skelton Papers, the micro-filmed Bennett Papers, and the King Papers. In his introduction to Volume 4 of the series, this Editor wrote:

The reader is assured that, subject to considerations of space, no documents have been omitted if it was felt that they would throw light upon Canada's external relations. The Editor has had access to all documents of the period and has been under no restrictions in their selection and publication. No document has been omitted for reasons of state or to avoid embarrassment to any individual or group.

That assurance is now repeated with reference to the present volume.

In the course of his work in the Department of External Affairs the Editor was fortunate in having as a colleague John A. Munro, Editor of Volume 6 in this series. In particular, his willingness to assume the role of devil's advocate has been of great assistance in helping the Editor to clarify his thinking, and is much appreciated.

Previous Editors have thanked those anonymous individuals employed by the Department who have assisted in the production of the volumes. A change in government policy now permits naming these people. Although the Editor alone is responsible for the selection of documents he would like to take advantage of that change in policy to thank a number of people. Two officers of Historical Division have been involved in the production of each of the volumes in the series. They are G. W. Hilborn and G. R. Blanchet. To them the Editor is indebted. Gordon Hilborn has been painstaking in his work on the manuscripts and has been an unwavering advocate of consistency in the presentation of documents—no easy task in a series of this magnitude. He has been a constant support and source of encouragement who cheerfully bore the brunt of the Editor's frustrations.

Gaston Blanchet has worked with each of the successive Editors in various capacities. When the selection of documents for this volume was completed they were turned over to him. He supervised the production of the volume at all stages from that point. The preparation of the manuscript for the printer,