

identified, as governments everywhere adjust their foreign policies to the vastly changed circumstances of the post-Cold War world.

Before we adjourn for coffee, I might say something about the rooms we are meeting in and what they tell us about this department and its relationship with the historical profession. We shall be having coffee in the Skelton lobby, named after O.D. Skelton, deputy minister from 1925 until 1941. He had been dean of arts at Queen's University before his appointment to the department, and forged strong links with the academic community during his 16 years here. It was he who established the standards for recruitment to the foreign service, and he made sure that a distinguished scholarly record ranked high among them, with history one of the favoured subjects of study. It was also Skelton who brought Marjorie McKenzie to the department. Although nominally his secretary, she became a contributor to the policy-making process and developed a comprehensive knowledge of departmental operations. This had an added value later in her career, when she was a mainstay of the department's Historical Division, serving as its acting head in 1955-1956. It is to the efforts of that division during the time that she was there that we owe the collection of records on which the early volumes of our *Documents* series are based.

In view of what I have said about Dr. Skelton and his contribution to the historical work of the department, you will realize that it is a special pleasure for us that his daughter Sheila and her husband Arthur Menzies, a distinguished former member of our foreign service, are joining us for the conference today and tomorrow.

The room in which we are meeting is named for Skelton's successor, Norman Robertson. As deputy minister during the Second World War, Robertson looked to the academic community to provide some of the additional staff required to handle the greatly expanded workload of the time. A number of those who came to the department then were historians. Their preponderance was such, in fact, that a professor from the University of Toronto referred to the place as the historian's "Babylonian captivity". I hope that the time you spend with us today and tomorrow will not seem like captivity, Babylonian or otherwise, and that your deliberations will be enjoyable as well as fruitful. I have been very glad to be able to join you today, and wish you every success in your meetings.