

Historical Affairs

As an aid to scholarly research and university teaching, the Department has now published seven volumes in its series *Documents on Canadian External Relations*. These volumes constitute the basic published record of the foreign policy and international relations of the Government of Canada. They are designed, within set limits of space and size, to provide a comprehensive, self-contained record of the major foreign-policy decisions of the Government of Canada, and of the reasons for them, as well as of the major international events and trends affecting Canada. The volumes are compiled and edited, on behalf of the Department, mainly by professional historians. The series now covers the years from 1909, when the Department was founded, to 1941. The eighth volume, which also forms the second part of the coverage of the 1939-41 period, will appear early in 1976. Work on the remaining volumes for the period 1942-47 has continued and the corresponding volumes will be published during the next few years.

Throughout the year, the Historical Division continued its normal services to the research community, which included access, whenever possible, to Departmental records since 1946, help in establishing the factual accuracy of manuscripts, development of oral-history records through interviews with Cabinet ministers and senior officials who had been concerned with Canadian foreign relations, and round-table discussions with departmental officers on current issues of interest.

Of special interest to researchers is the decision made in 1974 to open departmental records on bilateral relations with the United States down to 1950, in a "tandem" arrangement with the State Department in Washington.

Canada continues its participation in the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), a specialized agency of the Organization of American States. The Department published the proceedings of a seminar on archival techniques and training held at the Government Conference Centre in Ottawa between October 14 and 18, 1974. The meeting brought together 30 archivists from Canada, Latin America and the Commonwealth Caribbean, the United States, and several European countries such as Spain and France, whose historical archives are closely linked with those of the Americas. Seminars in PAIGH's disciplines, which are a regular feature of Canada's membership in the Institute, have been found to be of benefit not only to the foreign delegates and institutes invited to take part but to their Canadian counterparts as well.