

## THE DEPARTMENT AT WAR

The outbreak of the Second World War in September 1939 transformed the Department at home and abroad. The government moved immediately to establish missions in Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, and South Africa, all close Commonwealth allies. A consulate, the first office of this type, was hurriedly opened in Greenland in 1940 to monitor the situation there in light of the importance of its cryolite mines to the Allied war effort. The following year, a high commissioner was sent to Newfoundland because of the strong American military presence there, and a consulate opened in the neighbouring French islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, which were of strategic importance.

Following the German blitzkrieg in Europe, the posts in Belgium, France, Switzerland,



<sup>24</sup> Major-General Georges P. Vanier in Algeria in 1944. (Source: Library and Archives Canada, PA-166092)

<sup>25</sup> The war encouraged closer Canada–U.S. cooperation on continental defence and led to the establishment of the Permanent Joint Board on Defence (PJBD). This picture was taken during a PJBD meeting in Ottawa on August 26, 1940. Prime Minister Mackenzie King is seated in the middle, with H.L. Keenleyside, secretary of the PJBD's Canadian section, standing at far left. (Source: Library and Archives Canada, C-005767)