

INTRODUCTION

In 1952, the Department of External Affairs emerged from a three-year administrative reorganization undertaken to enable the Department to sustain its expanded operations at headquarters and abroad.¹ In April, Arnold Heeney, who as under-secretary had been responsible for the project, left that post to become Canada's first permanent representative to the newly established North Atlantic Council in Paris. Heeney was succeeded by Dana Wilgress, the High Commissioner to the United Kingdom. Norman Robertson replaced Wilgress in London. In September, there were other changes in the under-secretarial group. R.A. MacKay and R.M. Macdonnell were appointed as assistant under-secretaries, following the departures of Escott Reid, the deputy under-secretary, who became High Commissioner to India, and H.O. Moran, who was named Ambassador to Turkey. In November, Charles Ritchie was promoted from assistant to deputy under-secretary. Post expansion, which had slowed considerably during the reorganization, resumed in 1952, although at a more measured pace than that of the early postwar years (Chapter I). The new missions created were primarily designed to promote Canada's trade interests abroad (document 36).

The Korean conflict continued to dominate the international agenda, with the armistice negotiations between the American-led United Nations Command and North Korean and Chinese authorities occupying increasing attention (Chapter II). Given the central role of the United States in the conduct of the war and in the armistice talks, that country's policies were a major preoccupation of Canadian officials. Faced with the tendency of American policy makers to act unilaterally, Ottawa pressed upon Washington the importance of providing full information and adequate opportunities for consultation in advance of contemplated actions. Canadian officials also sought to maximize the role of the United Nations in deliberations on Korea in order to enhance their capacity to influence American policies. In this, Canada achieved mixed results, although it was instrumental in persuading the United States to agree to an Indian-sponsored General Assembly resolution on the release of prisoners of war, which American officials had initially been unwilling to accept.

Beyond Korea, the Canadian delegation to the United Nations was involved in a wide range of issues which came before the organization (Chapter III). Although Canada had little direct stake in such matters as the Palestine Conciliation Commission, South West Africa, and Tunisia and Morocco, it took considerable interest in them. Its approach was conditioned by its NATO and Commonwealth associations in the context of continuing East-West tension. An important tribute to the role that Canada had played at the United

¹The reorganization is discussed in John Hilliker and Donald Barry, *Canada's Department of External Affairs: Coming of Age, 1946-1968*, (forthcoming).