

REPORT OF THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, OTTAWA

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Secretary of State for External Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit the customary Annual Report of the activities of the Department for the calendar year 1942. The past year has been marked by a continuous increase in the work of the Department as a whole and in the duties of the individual officers both at home and abroad. The Divisional organization outlined in the Annual Report for the year ending December 31, 1941, has been maintained. In June, 1942, Mr. Hume Wrong who had been Minister-Counsellor in Washington, returned to the Department to assume responsibility for the work of the British Commonwealth and European Division, while Mr. L. B. Pearson was transferred to the post of Minister-Counsellor at the Canadian Legation in Washington. The staff of the Department in Ottawa has been strengthened by the appointments of Mr. G. P. de T. Glazebrook, Mr. J. J. Deutsch and Mr. S. M. Scott as special war-time assistants.

It is of interest to note that prior to September 1939, there were six offices in the External Affairs Service abroad. While four of these offices were closed as a direct result of war developments, thirteen additional offices have been established in Commonwealth and foreign countries. Thus the number of External Affairs offices abroad has trebled since the outbreak of war. At the same time there has been a large increase in the number of offices in Canada representing Commonwealth and foreign countries. In addition to the Commonwealth countries each of which is represented by a High Commissioner, thirteen foreign countries now maintain Legations in Ottawa, while Consulates General have been established by Cuba and Peru.

A large part of this rapid extension of Canada's direct diplomatic relations with other Governments has taken place in the past year. On November 4, 1942, the appointment of Mr. L. D. Wilgress as Canadian Minister to the U.S.S.R. was announced. At the same time, Major-General Victor W. Odlum, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., was appointed Canadian Minister to China, Mr. Justice T. C. Davis as Canadian High Commissioner to Australia, and Mr. Warwick F. Chipman, K.C., as Canadian Minister to Chile. Finally, on November 30th, Brigadier (now Major-General) George P. Vanier, D.S.O., M.C., was designated as Canadian Minister to Belgium, the Netherlands, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Norway, Poland and Yugoslavia. In addition, he will act in consultation with the French National Committee in London on matters of mutual interest relating to the conduct of the war.

The following is a short review of the work of Offices abroad which are under the direction of the Secretary of State for External Affairs:—