

XI. VISIT OF PRESIDENT EISENHOWER TO OTTAWA - JULY 8-11, 1958

Introduction

On May 2, 1958, the Office of the Prime Minister announced that President and Mrs. Eisenhower had accepted an invitation to make an informal visit to Ottawa from July 8-11, 1958, accompanied by Secretary of State and Mrs. Dulles. This was the President's second official visit to Ottawa and according to an article in the August 1958 issue of External Affairs Monthly Bulletin (see attachment "A"), the President "has been abroad on a few occasions in order to attend international conferences but he has not set foot outside the United States since assuming office to pay an official visit, except to Canada. He has made two such visits during his five and a half years of office. By so doing, he has underlined in a particularly gratifying way, the special relationship that exists between his country and Canada".

(a) Presidential Party

As well as including Secretary of State and Mrs. Dulles, the party comprised twelve members of the President's personal staff, about 20 members of the US Secret Service and there were 14 members of the crew of the President's plane. The US Embassy informed the Department of the names of the people accompanying the President, but this list is not on file. Neither do the files contain a copy of the final printed programme issued by the Government Hospitality Committee.

(b) Procedures

The Government Hospitality Committee (GHC) was given the responsibility by the Prime Minister for planning the arrangements for this visit. Two sub-committees of the GHC were established - (1) the Programme sub-committee with Mr. Archibald Day as Chairman and (2) the Publicity Arrangements sub-committee with Mr. Paul Malone as Chairman. The former sub-committee had four meetings (May 8, June 25, July 5 and a de-briefing session on July 15). Invited to this sub-committee's meetings were representatives from: Government Hospitality Committee, Departments of Public Works, National Defence, Secretary of State, Veterans Affairs and External Affairs, Government House, NFB, CBC, RCMP, Ottawa City Police, Prime Minister's Office, City of Hull, City of Ottawa, RCAF Station Uplands and US Embassy.