

of the files from Canada House and the Embassy in Washington accentuates the loss of the files of the Consulate General in New York.

The editor of this volume makes no claims to presenting a complete documentary story of Canada's external relations for much of the raw material for the historian's task remains locked up in foreign archives. It is hoped that this volume can be used as a basis for discovering this documentation when other national and international archives follow Canada's more generous access policies.

Collections of documents emphasize the episodic nature of external relations. For those who wish a fuller presentation of the Department's operations the monthly External Affairs Bulletin is available in the Department's library. On policy issues the best chronology after January 29, 1946 is found in the Reports of the Weekly Meetings of the Heads of Divisions (DEA/8508-40). At each meeting the Heads reported on the main activities of their Divisions during the preceding week. These reports provide the best review of Canada's external relations.

In making his selection the editor has had access to all files and permission to include any document that did not violate the privacy of individuals or adversely affect national security by describing intelligence operations. In the final selection no document was excluded for either of these reasons. The six most obvious gaps in this record were deliberate choices made because of the type of documentation available in the files or elsewhere.

No policy-oriented or comprehensive descriptive documents could be located in External Affairs' voluminous files on the distribution abroad of information about Canada or the resumption of cultural exchange programmes. Without this kind of documentation the editor decided that there was little value in documenting the technicalities of distributing Canadian materials and culture aimed at dispelling the notion that Canada was for Mounties, wheat and pioneers. Scholars wishing to monitor these programmes are invited to immerse themselves in the appropriate files.

Regrettably it has not been possible with just the few documents included to gain a fuller appreciation of domestic concern with foreign affairs and its impact on such issues as the possible recognition of the Vatican and participation in the United Nations Economic, Scientific and Cultural Organization. From the file references contained in this volume, these avenues can be pursued in conjunction with existing records of private organizations and interested individuals, when these become available.

The absence of references to certain subjects, especially those dealing with technical matters or private individuals and business should not lead readers to the conclusion that the Government was not interested or involved in these transactions. Space alone has made it impossible to include the highly technical documentation on subjects such as radio frequencies or the registration of Canadian Bank securities in the United States.