

Meanwhile, among the more senior officers were a fair number of good linguists, and others had acquired certain foreign languages during their terms of service in Missions abroad. An increasing number learned Russian, one or two learned Polish, Italian, Greek and other alien tongues. Miss E.P. MacCallum was, by birth, and childhood in Turkey, fluent in Turkish and related languages, and studied Arabic while Chargé d'Affaires in Lebanon. J.B. Watkins was fluent in Danish and the other Scandinavian languages, and became very fluent in Russian. J.A. McCordick spoke many languages, including German, Spanish and Slavonic languages. Norman, Patterson, Menzies, Collins, McCardle and a few others spoke Japanese and some Chinese. A number of officers were fluent in German. R.A.D. Ford had studied Russian before going to Moscow, and acquired a fluent knowledge of Portuguese and Spanish. Sicotte, Leger, and others were fluent Spanish linguists. The list could be extended.

Thus, in the years following the War, the Canadian Foreign Service gradually acquired a corps of linguists who were invaluable in manning the new diplomatic Missions abroad during the period of expansion. That development had been initiated, in a limited way to meet the then limited needs, during the incumbency of Dr. Skelton as Under-Secretary.