

received by the government. All the supporting apparatus in each volume, including captions and footnotes, will appear in both official languages. . . .

Subject to the limitations set down in the Prime Minister's statement in the House of Commons on May 1, 1969, regarding access to and publication of the Government's records, editors will be given freedom of access to departmental records as well as freedom in selecting documents for publication in the series. As a general rule, documents will be published in their entirety. Deletions will be made only where considerations of space or the privacy of an individual dictate. . . .

The Editor has been permitted to see all the documents in this period held by the Department or deposited by the Department in the Public Archives of Canada. Through the courtesy of the Literary Executors of W. L. Mackenzie King, the Editor received access to all the King papers for the years 1939-41. The bulk of the documents published in this volume have been selected from the Departmental files, from the King papers or from the papers of the Office of the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs. This latter collection, often referred to for convenience as "the Skelton papers", contains the papers of two Under-Secretaries of State for External Affairs, Dr. O. D. Skelton (1925-1941) and Norman A. Robertson (1941-1946). Some documents were selected from the Privy Council records, principally minutes of meetings of Cabinet committees, especially those of the Cabinet War Committee. Several other collections of papers were examined, including those of Ernest Lapointe and J. L. Ralston, both of whom served as Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs for short periods during the Prime Minister's absences from Canada, but no documents were selected for publication from these collections. The Editor can happily state that no document which he selected for publication has been withheld by the Department.

The phenomenal increase in the number of telegrams, despatches and memoranda during the war has meant that not every relevant document could be published. The selection attempts to illustrate the formulation of Canadian policy and preference has been given to Canadian documents. Fortunately, all official papers used in the selection of documents for Volumes 7 and 8 are now open to public examination subject to the restrictions mentioned in the Prime Minister's statement to the House of Commons on May 1, 1969. To aid readers in locating the documents published in these volumes, the source of each document has been indicated in the top right-hand corner. These sources are either Departmental file numbers or the name of the collection from which the document was selected. Readers wishing related background information on the events covered by the documents are referred to Professor C. P. Stacey's *Arms, Men and Governments: The War Policies of Canada (1939-1945)*, (Ottawa: Queen's Printer, 1970) and to *The Mackenzie King Record*, Vol. 1, 1939-1944, by J. W. Pickersgill (University of Toronto Press, 1960).