

## Introduction

### The Department

The Canadian Department of External Affairs, instituted in 1909, is approximately a half century old. Its history may be roughly divided into two parts, with the year 1925 as the watershed.

In its first phase, from 1909 to 1925, it was principally an administrative bureau, performing more efficiently routine duties which had previously been performed by the Privy Council Office and the Secretary of State's Department. From 1909 to 1912 it was an offshoot and adjunct of the Secretary of State's Department; from 1912 it was an adjunct to the Prime Minister's Office. It was scarcely an advisory department on foreign policy, except for the personal aid given after 1913 to the Prime Minister by its legal adviser, Loring C. Christie. It was the headquarters of no permanent Canadian diplomatic missions abroad, although the International Joint Commission, the Canadian War Mission in Washington, the Commissioner General's Office in Paris, and after 1921, the High Commissioner's Office in London, were nominally under the Department's jurisdiction. It was a documentary centre and a passport office, but it was not a "Foreign Office".

In the second phase, after 1925-26 - which is not part of the present study - the Department became more like a "Foreign Office"; it helped more to advise and guide Canadian foreign policy; it actively participated in the business of external relations and diplomacy; it was the headquarters of a Canadian diplomatic