

gration officials. They were appointees of individual departments of the Canadian Government and did not enjoy diplomatic status. Negotiations with foreign countries were conducted through the British Foreign Office and dealings with other parts of the Empire through the Colonial Office, with Canadian representatives frequently included in negotiations. Canadian interests abroad were handled by British diplomatic and consular authorities. All communications to other governments were made through the Governor General in those early years.

Before 1920, Canada had no independent diplomatic representative abroad, although as early as 1920 it was agreed by the British and Commonwealth Governments, and by the United States Government, that a Canadian minister could be appointed to Washington. The appointment was made in 1926, and the first Canadian legation was opened in Washington early in 1927. This was followed in 1928 by the appointment of the Commissioner-General in Paris as Minister to France, and, in 1929, by the opening of a legation in Tokyo. At about the same time, the United States, France and Japan opened legations in Ottawa.

The expansion of the service was thereafter interrupted by the depression of the Thirties. The three years of rapid growth from 1926 to 1929 were followed by a decade of consolidation. The next step in the exchange of diplomatic representatives with other countries was taken when Belgium sent a minister to Ottawa in 1937; in January 1939, Canada established legations in Belgium and the Netherlands.

With the outbreak of the Second World War, it became imperative that Canada have closer and more direct contact with other governments of the Commonwealth, with the allied governments and with certain other foreign governments. The day after Canada's separate declaration of war on September 10, 1939, it was announced that the Canadian Government would send high commissioners to Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Ireland. The governments of these countries reciprocated. The appointment in 1941 of a high commissioner to Newfoundland recognized the importance of that country to the defence of Canada.

The increasing magnitude of Canada's war effort and its growing international commitments led to a rapid increase of diplomatic exchanges with foreign countries. In 1942, by reciprocal agreement,