

Nations War Crimes Commission because Commonwealth countries, but not the Soviet Federated Republics, were represented. Such problems were not pressing in discussions dealing with post-war economic questions — trade, finance and civil aviation — although there was concern in Canada lest Commonwealth consultation give the impression that a common front was being formed for dealings with the United States. While consideration of these issues did not go beyond the preliminary stage in 1943, they received close and urgent study. As a result, there were significant Canadian contributions to international discussion of the subjects concerned, for example in the paper on international monetary organization (enclosure, Document 594). Some of the fruits of these efforts will be seen in Volume II.

During the middle years of the war, it became apparent that the loose grouping of “united nations” was likely to form the basis of a world organization once peace was restored, and that objective was endorsed by the Moscow conference in October 1943 (see Section e in Part I of Chapter II). Detailed plans for such an organization were not far advanced by the end of that year but indications of Canada’s future role might be found in the arrangements for two specialized agencies, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) and the Interim Commission on Food and Agriculture (Chapter IV). As an important economic power, Canada expected to make a major contribution to the work of both these bodies and sought commensurate representation. These hopes were satisfactorily borne out in the Food and Agriculture organization: the Chairman of the Canadian delegation, G. S. Barton, was a member of the Steering Committee of the organizational conference at Hot Springs, Virginia, in May and June 1943, and L. B. Pearson was named Chairman of the Interim Commission. With UNRRA, on the other hand, there were more difficulties. Canada’s claim to membership of the Central Committee (with China, Great Britain, the Soviet Union and the United States) was not accepted and, although chairmanship of the Supplies Committee might be partial compensation, there was concern lest these arrangements set a precedent for exclusion from the direction of future United Nations bodies of importance to this country. Outside the United Nations context, problems of status did not interfere with Canada’s participation in international conferences in which it had an acknowledged role or an evident interest (Chapter V). It was more difficult, however, to establish a claim to participate in inter-American discussions, in which Canada hitherto had not been closely involved. As a result, Canada was not invited to the meeting of foreign ministers of the American Republics at Rio de Janeiro in December 1941.

The Commonwealth relationship (Chapter VI), although a complicating factor in Canadian external relations, was still valued but, because of the changed character of the war, was of less importance than it had been between 1939 and 1941 (see Volume 7, Chapters III-V). Relations with the United States (Chapter VII), on the other hand, assumed even greater significance now that that country was a co-belligerent. While the transition undoubtedly was aided by arrangements worked out during the years of United States neutrality (Volume 8, Chapter I), it was not without its resentments and anxieties. Most serious, perhaps, were those arising from United States involvement in defence projects in