

FOREWORD

Tranquillity, it has been said, is relative. Even so, it is unlikely that 1954 will go down in history as an outstanding example of a tranquil year. There were occasions during the year when the situation in the Far East threatened to deteriorate into large-scale hostilities; and in the West, for a period after the failure of the projected European Defence Community, the integrity of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization was jeopardized. Developments in both these areas affected, for a time, the cohesion of the free nations on whose unity the peace of the world so largely depends.

It is true, however, that the gravest disturbances in 1954 remained potential rather than actual; threats of deterioration which were, at least temporarily, successfully averted. The fighting in Indochina was halted by diplomacy before it could spread; incidents in the islands off the coast of China were, for the time being at least, localized and limited; and NATO was consolidated and strengthened by agreements worked out at meetings in London and Paris for the adherence of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Atlantic community.

The year made heavy demands on Canadian diplomacy, and imposed new responsibilities on our country. There is no sign that Canada's international responsibilities, which have grown steadily during the past two decades, are likely to decline in the foreseeable future.

The Canadian people are dedicated to the cause of common sense and conciliation in world affairs. In this it is the duty of the Department of External Affairs to act as one of their instruments. The report which follows is designed to give to Parliament, and through it to the people of Canada, some account of what the Department has been doing during the past year and of the developments in international relations which have affected its work.

L B Pearson

*Secretary of State
for External Affairs.*

OTTAWA, February 1, 1955.