

with the United States were of paramount importance both to Canada and to the Commonwealth. The documents published in Chapter 1 illustrate the rapidly growing ties between the two countries in spite of United States neutrality, and reveal the great care taken by the Canadian government to cultivate these relations. Prime Minister Mackenzie King resorted to personal diplomacy himself on at least three separate occasions during this period, most notably in connection with the Ogdensburg and Hyde Park Agreements.

The prolonged illness of the Canadian Minister to the United States, Loring Christie, was, in part, responsible for another exercise in personal diplomacy, the missions of Dr. H. L. Keenleyside to Washington in May and June, 1940 as the personal emissary between the Canadian Prime Minister and President Roosevelt. Dr. Keenleyside's reports (Documents 42, 43, 45 and 56), with their code names and abbreviations, retain the drama of top secret diplomacy during the fateful days of May and June, 1940. Christie's illness also meant that the Commercial Counsellor in the Legation, Merchant M. Mahoney, played a key role at crucial moments as the Canadian Chargé d'Affaires. In view of Loring Christie's incapacity, Prime Minister Mackenzie King appointed Leighton McCarthy, a prominent Canadian lawyer and businessman and personal friend of President Roosevelt, as Canadian Minister. Since Mr. McCarthy was not an experienced diplomat, Hume Wrong was posted to the Legation, first as Counsellor and then as Minister-Counsellor, and much of the real work of Canadian diplomacy in Washington in the latter part of 1941 was in his hands.

The circumstances of war created unique diplomatic problems for Canada. One of the most complex and most delicate questions, because of its impact upon Canadian domestic politics, was Canada's relationship with France after its defeat in June, 1940. The dilemma of Canada's position became apparent with dramatic suddenness on June 20, 1940 when the arrival in Halifax harbour of the French cruiser, *Émile Bertin*, with a cargo of three hundred million dollars in gold ostensibly consigned to the Bank of Canada, produced a diplomatic incident because the captain of the ship insisted on sailing with his cargo direct to Martinique. The documents describing this affair can be found in Part 2 of Chapter 2.

Throughout the period covered by this Volume, Canada maintained diplomatic relations with France and, after the French surrender, with the Vichy régime. G. P. Vanier, Canadian Minister to France, left France for London after the French defeat and was brought back to Canada in the autumn of 1940 to accept an appointment as commander of a Canadian military district, yet he did not relinquish his title as Canadian Minister to France. He formally requested to be relieved of this title in May, 1941 because of his strong belief that Canada should break off diplomatic relations with the Vichy government, but both he and the Canadian government were persuaded of the need to maintain relations by Churchill's assurance that Canadian contacts with occupied France were useful to the allied cause. These contacts were