

leading expert on the region, demonstrated the value of such expertise (document 231).

As a result of Canada's bilateral interaction with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe being limited, much of the activity of the missions in Moscow and other Eastern European capitals consisted of reporting on developments in those countries (Chapter X). A selection of despatches indicating trends being followed by the mission in Moscow is printed.

The main focus of Canadian policy in the Far East in 1952 was Japan (Chapter XI). The coming into force of the peace treaty in April was followed by the restoration of full diplomatic relations between the two countries. The principal item on the bilateral agenda was the conclusion of a new trade agreement. Also receiving attention was the situation in Indochina. While Ottawa decided to extend qualified recognition to Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia as "Associated States within the French Union," in December 1952, it maintained a cautious attitude, rejecting renewed French efforts to secure aid to the region for NATO purposes.

The creation of new posts in Latin America during 1952, together with the decision to despatch a major trade mission to that area in early 1953, demonstrated Canada's interest in cultivating closer economic ties with the countries of the region. However, the generally negative response among External Affairs officials to an informal American overture to join the Organization of American States indicated that Canada was reluctant to play a larger political role in Latin America.

In selecting documents for this volume, I have been guided by the principles set out in the Introduction to Volume 7 (pp. ix-xi) of this series. One source of difficulty in following the principles was the huge growth of the postwar documentary record, reflecting Canada's expanding foreign policy agenda. To some extent it was possible to compensate for this by relying more heavily than previous editors on summary documents such as the reports of the weekly meetings of heads of division, Cabinet Conclusions and documents prepared for cabinet. Even so, the amount of material was such that a more selective approach had to be adopted to the source material and subjects examined.

Accordingly, I decided to confine comprehensive coverage to the files of the Department of External Affairs, the L.B. Pearson papers and the records of the Privy Council Office, the last as a result of the PCO's centrality in the Ottawa policy process. Other collections were consulted only when required to complete the examination of individual topics.

A second source of difficulty was the complexity of some subjects by comparison with the wartime and early postwar years. To have dealt with such subjects adequately would have required the inclusion of a much greater number of documents than could have been accommodated in the volume. To have done so, moreover, would have given such lengthy treatment to those subjects as to distort the balance of importance of the issues arising during the period. These considerations led to the omission of certain highly complex and detailed subjects such as the annual review and mutual aid processes in