

the Department, therefore, had to construct consular instructions. The Consul General, it appears, opened his office without formal written instructions from Ottawa since the Department, unprepared for the opening, had not had time to compile them.⁶ They sent K.B. Bingay to New York to investigate the work performed by the Trade Commissioner and the British Consulate General and to draw up a list of matters upon which the Consulate would need written direction. Miss Bingay subsequently prepared a series of five memoranda outlining the duties expected of the consular officers. The Department recommended, on her return, that printed instructions not be issued for the guidance of the consuls, but instead, a series of numbered circulars be issued on the subjects raised in her memoranda. These circulars would later be amended and incorporated into permanent printed Canadian Consular Instructions.⁷

Another case in point was the episode involving the office at Portland, Maine, whereby a reaction to the pressure of events again revealed a lack of foresight on the part of External Affairs.

Near the end of the war, the question of opening a second consulate in the United States suddenly faced the unprepared Department of External Affairs. The British had maintained a Vice-Consulate in Portland, Maine, to satisfy the needs of both British and Canadian tankers which discharged their oil cargoes into a pipeline extant between Portland and Montreal, but as the war concluded, the British decided to close their office.⁹ Canadian interests in Portland were still extensive enough to cause the Deputy Minister of Transport and the Montreal Board of Trade, at the instigation of the oil companies, to urge External Affairs to continue representation in Portland. Departmental officers were not particularly pleased with this situation.¹⁰ Lester Pearson, the