

responsibilities of the Division were defined as follows:

The Consular Division is responsible for the proper conduct of all consular matters; for the instruction of Foreign Service and Consular Officers in consular duties when serving at home and their direction in such duties when serving abroad; in concert with the Personnel Division for the recruitment of consular officers as necessary; for recommendations concerning the expansion of the Canadian Consular Service and the formulation of policies related thereto.

One of the first projects undertaken by Leslie Chance, Head of the new division, was a study of the situation with regard to the establishment of consulates in the United States. Some urgency was attached to this question at the interdepartmental meeting on March 13, 1947, because Trade and Commerce had notified the Department of External Affairs of their desire to withdraw the officers from both Chicago and Los Angeles

within three months.⁴⁸ This followed on the heels of a statement by the Canadian Ambassador in Washington, Hume Wrong, who wrote to Under-Secretary Pearson that:

In general, I have felt for some time that it was doubtful whether we should expand our consular representation outside New York except on the basis of a plan which contemplated the assumption within a fairly short period of time by Canadian officers of consular functions throughout the whole continental United States. If we are not prepared to do this, my inclination would be to leave matters as they are for the present. The post in New York is of a special character because of the unrivalled importance of that city. The opening of a new post in Los Angeles is not justified on similar grounds.⁴⁹

Wrong, accordingly, suggested in March 1947 that the Canadians carry out another systematic survey of the amount and nature of business performed by the British consuls on Canada's behalf. Leslie Chance, in return, proposed meeting the consuls at the British Consular Conference scheduled for April 1947 in order to discuss Canadian problems, to increase the Canadians' knowledge of consular service, and to dispel the rumours