

where Moscow was tightening its grip, new importance for Canada, and led Ottawa to open missions in Czechoslovakia and Poland in 1947, and in Yugoslavia a year later.

Also in 1947, Italy became the first of the former Axis countries to receive a Canadian mission, reflecting its growing importance as a potential Cold War ally. Two years later, the Department opened a mission in Bonn. In 1951, the mission was raised to full embassy status when Canadian troops on a mission for the recently created North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) arrived in West Germany to help deter a Soviet attack. The establishment of NATO's permanent headquarters in Paris the following year clearly required another new Canadian mission.

Decolonization, too, created a new set of related yet distinct global issues in the 1940s and 1950s that demanded a Canadian response. Shortly before India achieved independence in August 1947, John Kearney headed to New Delhi as Canada's first high commissioner in that country. This signalled Ottawa's commitment to the emerging nations of the Commonwealth and its evolving nature as a multiracial and multicultural organization. Missions to Pakistan, Ceylon (later Sri Lanka), and Indonesia followed over the next decade.

Canada was also busy elsewhere in Asia, where war erupted along the Korean peninsula in June 1950. As a result, Canada hastened to sign the Peace Treaty with Japan in 1951 and in 1952 raised its legation in Tokyo to an embassy in order to keep closer tabs on events in the Pacific. Two years later, at a conference in Geneva to address Cold War tensions in Asia, Canada was drawn still further into Pacific affairs. The invitation to join the three commissions established to supervise the uncertain peace in the former French colonies of Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos soon placed enormous demands on the



³³ With the spread of the Cold War to Asia, relations with Japan became more important than ever. Herbert Norman, who opened a liaison mission in postwar Tokyo as the first step towards normalizing relations, is shown here with U.S. General Douglas MacArthur in 1947. (Source: Library and Archives Canada, PA-187690).

Department. Between 1954 and 1973, when the task finally ended, fully one-third of its staff served in Southeast Asia.

Retreating European empires created tensions and opportunities in the Middle East as well. In search of trade and an independent Canadian perspective in a corner of the world where decolonization and Cold War intrigue made for a deadly mix, External Affairs in 1954 opened offices in Egypt, Israel, and Lebanon.

While expanding into unfamiliar parts of the globe, the postwar Department was also active closer to home. Gaps in Canada's representation in Europe and Latin America were steadily filled during the late 1940s and 1950s. More important, working closely with the Department of Trade and Commerce, External Affairs embarked on a program of enhancing Canada's representation in the United States, which had clearly emerged as Canada's most important political and economic ally. By 1953, new consulates were opened in Boston, Chicago, Detroit, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Seattle.

Expansion was supported by a stepped-up recruitment program. When competitions favouring veterans ended in 1947, the Department again began to concentrate on the universities as a source of top-quality candidates. Women were finally admitted to the foreign service on the same basis as