

## FOREWORD

In the Foreword to the annual report of last year I observed that although tranquillity was relative it was unlikely that 1954 would go down in history as an outstanding example of a tranquil year. The same observation is equally applicable for the year 1955, and it may well be that, failing an all-out war, this will be a recurring theme in reports of this nature for some years. The leaders of the Communist world are able and resolute; they command vast resources, both human and material, which they can use ruthlessly, unimpeded by any popular control, to further their political and economic purposes. I have said before and I repeat now that we are in for a long hard pull. We are going to find competitive co-existence a rough and winding road to travel.

The year 1955, however, has left us with several substantial gains. Perhaps the most important of these is the fact that reasonable men have lost any illusions they may have had concerning the ultimate purposes of the Communist world. We should now, for the future, be neither elated by what seem to be amiable overtures nor dismayed by a return to hostile and menacing attitudes. Just as NATO came into existence and has grown strong through our resolve to resist aggression, so I think the NATO countries have emerged from 1955 with strengthened resolution and with a clearer vision of what must lie before them.

The year 1955 also marked the tenth anniversary of the United Nations, and it was fitting that the tenth session of the General Assembly achieved finally an enlargement of its membership so that, with the unfortunate exception of Japan, the United Nations has very largely become representative of the entire world, as it was originally intended to be. We are glad that the delegation of Canada, under the leadership of Hon. Paul Martin, contributed very substantially to this result. Measures were also taken by the tenth General Assembly of the United Nations to create an international body to be concerned with the peaceful uses of atomic energy, with the consequence that the scientific resources of the entire world will be pooled for the development of atomic energy for constructive purposes.

The demands imposed on the Department of External Affairs by Canada's steadily increasing responsibilities in international affairs continue to be heavy. Throughout this last year we have taken an active part in the work of the United Nations and of its agencies, in international conferences, and in the work of NATO. Canada has been elected to a three-year term on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and this, of course, considerably increases the work of our delegation in New York. Officers of the Department continue to serve on the three International Commissions in Indochina, where they are performing their duties with skill and devotion, but their absence naturally makes the current work of the Department more difficult. I do not think it realistic to expect that Canada's international responsibilities will become lighter in the future.