

I have not the time, of course, to describe in detail Canada's participation in the work of the United Nations. I might illustrate the heavy nature of our responsibilities by pointing out that if any one of you were to journey to New York this week, and to visit the various United Nations bodies meeting in the vicinity, you would find Canadian representatives present at meetings of the Economic and Social Council, the Interim Committee of the General Assembly, the Atomic Energy Commission, and, the most important of all in these troubled times, the Security Council. We have a delegation at the International Trade Conference in Havana which, since November, has been working to create a code of multilateral trading among the nations, another at Geneva working on a Maritime convention, another at Washington discussing a world wheat agreement and many others elsewhere.

During 1948, we shall probably send representatives to a hundred or more international conferences, most of which will be under the auspices of some branch of the United Nations. In New York, Paris, Geneva, Havana, Brussels, London, Washington, Beirut, Montreal and San Francisco, wherever the constituent bodies of the United Nations and its specialized agencies meet, there will be Canadian delegates present to play their part in this great experiment in establishing a world association for peace, justice and progress.

Participation in world affairs and in the activities of an organization like the United Nations naturally involves a considerable increase in the number of trained personnel which the Canadian government must use to represent it in foreign countries and at international conferences. The Department of External Affairs at Ottawa has therefore had to expand rapidly to meet the many new obligations which Canada has incurred. Because we cannot afford to go unrepresented at conferences whose deliberations may have a very definite effect on Canadian interests, we must have men who will do the necessary research on all the difficult problems which our senior government officials, delegates and ambassadors must meet. We must get reliable information from abroad as to what other countries intend to do, what they think of Canada, whether they might buy something from us, whether they will be good neighbours or bad neighbours in the general community of nations, how they tackle particular social problems that Canada also has to face. We must have a well-trained staff stationed at various points around the world and at the home base who can gather information, evaluate it, relay it to the interested Canadian sources and use it in the formation of our overall external policy. The staff abroad must also, of course, maintain contacts with foreign governments and represent Canada in many different ways. In the delicate matter of relationships between national governments, it is essential to have these contacts handled by individuals on the spot who know the whole background to the matter at issue, the personalities involved and the proper method of approach. International relations can have so important an effect on the welfare of our nation, that we cannot risk having anything but the most skilled handling of our foreign contacts.

I do not want to give you the impression, however, that Canadian contacts abroad are all handled through one Department of government. Our commercial work abroad is the responsibility mainly of the Department of Trade and Commerce and a number of other departments provide the Canadian representatives for international conferences in specialized fields. Some provincial governments maintain contacts abroad and a great many private associations and individuals have commercial and cultural relationships with the rest of the world. What I do want to stress is that in the Department of External Affairs, more than in any other section of government, consideration is given to the