

on added importance once agreements between Washington and NATO countries concerning the stockpiling of nuclear weapons became final. At the end of 1958, senior Canadian bureaucrats still remained uncertain about who was ultimately responsible for deploying nuclear weapons in the event of war [Documents 228-236].

NATO was also preoccupied with a number of other important issues. Of great international concern was the renewed Soviet threat to alter the political status of Berlin and instigate a second Berlin crisis. Canadian officials were displeased with the decision of the United States, Britain, France, and Germany to hold separate talks to formulate a response to the Soviet initiative concerning Berlin [Document 313]. The subsequent NATO effort to draft diplomatic notes to be sent to Moscow was described by the Canadian permanent representative to the North Atlantic Council as “uninspiring and depressing” [Document 320]. Events in France further absorbed the attention of NATO members. Charles de Gaulle’s return to power in June 1958 guaranteed that he would attempt to force his views on the proper place and position of France within the alliance. In September 1957, de Gaulle contacted British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan and American President Dwight Eisenhower seeking to establish a triumvirate within NATO, an initiative Prime Minister Diefenbaker dismissed as one that betrayed de Gaulle’s “totally unrealistic assessment of France’s power and influence in NATO affairs” [Document 289]. Nevertheless, Canadian officials realized that the French proposal would relegate NATO members such as Canada to second-class status within the alliance, and they carefully watched diplomatic discussions among French, American, and British officials that occurred during the final months of 1958.

The actions of French officials figured prominently in two important topics documented in Chapter Four of this volume, which deals with Canada’s policy toward Western Europe. Ottawa maintained a keen interest in the domestic political situation in France before and after de Gaulle assumed power, and Canadian bureaucrats were directly affected by French policies and attitudes concerning Algeria. External Affairs officials incurred the wrath of Paris when they considered receiving a mission from various African nations to discuss the Algerian question. After the mission was abruptly cancelled in the face of French pressure, a departmental memorandum identified “lingering colonialism” [Document 505] as marking the French relationship with Canada. Perhaps more sensitive to potential criticism in the aftermath of this incident, Canada actively lobbied Commonwealth members to withhold recognition from the provisional government of Algeria formed by the Front de libération nationale (FLN), an initiative that was greatly appreciated by Paris [Document 516]. France also dominated the complex negotiations spearheaded by the United Kingdom to form a European Free Trade Area, a trade bloc that could have had a significant negative impact on Canadian trade with Europe. Throughout 1958, an inter-governmental committee headed by Reginald Maudling attempted to win the six members of the European Economic Community over to the idea of a wider continental free trade association. France, however, remained intransigent, and came precariously close to “wrecking the Common Market itself” [Document 491].

The final chapter in this volume provides a comprehensive examination of Canada’s atomic energy policy. The application of controls and safeguards to uranium exports was one of the key policy issues facing Canadian officials from a number of government departments. Bilateral agreements with West Germany and Switzerland