

## INTRODUCTION

Volume 8 in the *Documents on Canadian External Relations* series covers the same period as its companion Volume 7, the beginning of the war in Europe to the beginning of the war in Asia. The arrangement followed in Volume 7 has been continued in Volume 8; the documents selected have been arranged chronologically by topic. Several themes dominate in this volume: Canadian relations with the United States, Canadian relations with France, including St. Pierre and Miquelon, and Canadian relations with Japan. Five of the seven chapters are devoted to these themes. Documents on Canadian relations with allied governments-in-exile and on bilateral relations not covered under other headings make up the two remaining chapters. The Department of External Affairs has published documents on Canada's growing relations with Newfoundland during this period in a separate volume entitled *Documents on Relations between Canada and Newfoundland*, Volume 1, 1935-1949 (Information Canada, 1974).

The guidelines under which the Editor of this volume worked have been published in the Introduction to Volume 7. The Editor has been given free access to all documents held by the Department of External Affairs or deposited by the Department in the Public Archives of Canada, and, again, the Editor can happily state that no document he selected for publication has been withheld by the Department. The majority of the documents selected have come from Departmental files or from the papers of W. L. Mackenzie King on deposit in the Public Archives. The Editor gratefully acknowledges the permission given by the literary executors of W. L. Mackenzie King for access to all his papers for the years 1939-1941 and for permission to publish the documents selected. A number of documents have been selected for publication from the papers of the Office of the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, comprising the papers of two Under-Secretaries, Dr. O. D. Skelton (1925-41) and Norman A. Robertson (1941-46). This collection, also on deposit in the Public Archives, has been referred to for convenience as "the Skelton papers" in indicating the source of each document. Some documents have been selected from the Privy Council records, particularly the records of the Cabinet War Committee. Documents have been selected from the files of the Department of National Defence and from the W. C. Clark papers, held in the Department of Finance, and the Editor acknowledges with thanks the assistance of the staffs in both Departments and the permission to publish these documents.

From the beginning of the war until December 7, 1941, with Canada totally involved as a belligerent second only to Britain as a Commonwealth military power and with the United States officially neutral, Canadian relations