

External Affairs. Several members of the department, including the Under-Secretary and the Associate Under-Secretary, Hume Wrong, were in San Francisco throughout the conference; John Read remained in Ottawa as acting Under-Secretary. From October 7 to November 3, 1945, the Prime Minister and the Under-Secretary were again out of the country, this time for meetings with ministers and officials in Britain. In Ottawa, Ilsley again acted as Prime Minister, St. Laurent as Secretary of State for External Affairs and Wrong as Under-Secretary. Once the war in Europe was over, travel also was easier for diplomats stationed abroad. Thus Vincent Massey, High Commissioner in Great Britain since 1935, was able to take home leave from August 6 until the first week of November 1945. During his absence, Frederic Hudd was acting High Commissioner.

Throughout the war, most major decisions on external policy were taken in the Cabinet War Committee, which held its last meeting on April 11, 1945. During the Prime Minister's absence at the United Nations conference in San Francisco, matters affecting the war were dealt with by a short-lived special committee of the Cabinet, which met on three occasions (April 19 and 25 and May 16, 1945). After the surrender of Japan, the full Cabinet again became the source of decision on major policy matters.²

Plans for the conduct of the war (Chapter II) were based on the expectation of progress through three phases: the assault on the continent of Europe and the defeat of Germany (stage I), followed by concentration on the war against Japan (stage II) and the restoration of order in devastated areas (stage III). The major event in which Canadians participated in the European theatre, the invasion of Normandy, lies mainly in the realm of military history, but the announcement that it had taken place was the subject of diplomatic communication because of Canadian dissatisfaction with the publicity arrangements for the Sicilian campaign the previous year (Volume 9, documents 301-315). After D-Day, the war weariness characteristic of the period was increasingly evident. One reason may have been the conscription crisis of 1944, primarily a domestic and military issue but reflected here in an exchange of messages between the Prime Minister and Churchill and (via General Maurice Pope) Roosevelt (documents 330-332 and 336). As the war in Europe drew to a close, the government was concerned to ensure satisfactory arrangements for the repatriation of the forces, on one occasion threatening to recall Canadian cargo vessels employed by Great Britain if no other transportation could be provided (document 356).

In the circumstances, the government was reluctant to make a major commitment to the war against Japan, and was determined that it be confined to the area of most interest to Canada, the northern Pacific. The discussion of this subject is important, reflecting as it does the government's attitude towards Canada's role as a Pacific nation. The outcome, however, had little impact on

²C. P. Stacey, *Arms, Men and Governments: The War Policies of Canada, 1939-1945* (Ottawa: Information Canada, 1970), p. 119.