

In 1947 L.B. Pearson, then Under-Secretary, explained to the Standing Committee on External Affairs the situation with regard to a consular service. "The Department for many years has been planning for the establishment of a Canadian consular service. Before the war, plans had been drawn up for that purpose, but the war came along and those plans had to be shelved. Our consular service, however, did begin during the war. It happened that the first Canadian consul was appointed not to New York or to Los Angeles or to some large city like that but to a place called Ivigtut in Greenland. That arose out of the emergencies of the war. . . . When Denmark was overrun we discovered to our surprise that one of the most important spots on the map as far as the war industry was concerned was Ivigtut, where cryolite comes from, which is indispensable to the manufacture of aluminum. External Affairs appointed Mr. Kirkwood (as Consul). We did not leave him there very long. (Mr. Graydon interjected: "He came from the county of Peel. He did the work so fast he did not have to be left there long").

"Since that time we have appointed other consuls. We are now preparing plans for the establishment of a Canadian consular service in the United States. We have a Consular Division in the Department,*

* (Established in January, 1947, headed by Leslie Chance.)