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PUBLICATION OF VOLUME TWO OF DOCUMENTS ON RELATIONS BETWEEN CANADA AND NEWFOUNDLAND

The Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced today the publication of Volume Two of the series Documents on Relations Between Canada and Newfoundland.

Volume Two documents the events between 1940 and 1949 which led up to the union of Newfoundland with Canada on March 31, 1949, thirty-five years ago.

The volume is in two parts. The first part deals with the events leading up to the referendum of 1948 in which Newfoundlanders voted in favour of Confederation with Canada. The debates in the National Convention of Newfoundland, the discussions in Ottawa concerning the proposed arrangements for union and the referendum campaign are described in great detail. The second part shows the steps required to make Newfoundland a province of Canada, including the negotiation of the Terms of Union, the appointment of a Lieutenant-Governor and the establishment of a provisional government.

Volume Two contains over one thousand documents selected from the files of the Department of External Affairs and from collections in the Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Public Record Office, London, England, and Public Archives Canada.

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The documents include previously unpublished reports by Canada's High Commissioner in St. John's which provide an eyewitness account of events in Newfoundland. Also reproduced are Cabinet documents, minutes of interdepartmental meetings and recently declassified British Government documents as well as the Terms of Union. A chronology of events, pre-1949 maps of Newfoundland and Labrador and over forty photographs complement the documentation. The volume will be of value not only to scholars but also to the general public.

The two volume series Documents on Relations Between Canada and Newfoundland was originally undertaken to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of Newfoundland's union with Canada and to complement the series Documents on Canadian External Relations, also published by the Department of External Affairs. Volume One, which documents Canada-Newfoundland co-operation between 1935 and 1949 in defence, civil aviation and economic affairs, was published in 1974. Publication of Volume Two marks the thirty-fifth anniversary of Union.

As with Volume One, Volume Two is available through the Canadian Government Publishing Centre. It will also be distributed, with the co-operation of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, to libraries and government offices in Newfoundland. Canadian posts abroad and foreign universities with Canadian studies programmes will also receive copies.