

Post-war civil aviation was the subject of two important conferences during the autumn of 1944. It was discussed at Montreal by officials of British Commonwealth Governments who considered problems relating to establishment of air routes between British Commonwealth countries and, the International Civil Aviation Conference at Chicago in November, Canada presented a draft International Agreement which was, in effect, a compromise between British and United States aims.

Plans for an international organization for the maintenance of peace and security were drafted at Dumbarton Oaks, near Washington, D.C., by delegations from United Kingdom, United States, Soviet Union and China, from Aug. 21 to Oct. 7, 1944. Although Canada was not separately represented at this Conference, the draft proposals received careful study and Prime Minister King commended them "to the careful and earnest study of the people of Canada".

In September, 1944, the second session of the Council of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration was held in Montreal. The Canadian Minister Plenipotentiary at Washington, head of the Canadian delegation at the session as well as Chairman of the Committee on Policy, was elected to permanent chairmanship of the session.

The close ties of understanding and co-operation which have marked the dealings of the three major powers, the United States, Russia and the United Kingdom, were further solidified when President Roosevelt, Marshal Stalin and Prime Minister Churchill met at Yalta in the Crimea in February, 1945, to discuss general outlines of peace terms to be imposed on Germany.

Canada was represented by a delegation headed by Prime Minister King at the San Francisco Conference on International Organization, Apr. 25 to June 26, 1945, which met to consider amendments to the Dumbarton Oaks Charter for the maintenance of world security. The Canadian delegation was largely responsible for the adoption of several important measures, including the complete revision of the chapter on the social and economic council, which thus became one of the most important organs of the organization.

Prime Minister King and Justice Minister St. Laurent signed the World Security Charter in respect of Canada with powers which for the first time were granted under the Great Seal of Canada. In the past, Canadians have signed treaties on behalf of Canada, but their full power has been granted under the Great Seal of the Realm—the Great Seal for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Because Canadian representatives signed the Charter on behalf of Canada, under authority given them by the King as King of Canada, use of the Great Seal of Canada was the logical procedure in this instance. Use of the Seal in this manner was of historic importance as it marked a further step in the development of Canada as an autonomous member of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

Increased expansion of its diplomatic representation abroad reflects Canada's increased international stature. After the elevation to Embassy rank of the missions to the United States, U.S.S.R., China and Brazil in November, 1943, Ambassadors were also appointed during 1944 to Chile, Mexico and Peru. The Canadian mission at Paris received the status of an Embassy after official recognition was given the Government of General de Gaulle by the Government of Canada, along with the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States. An Ambassador has also been appointed to Belgium, and a newly appointed representative to Greece holds the personal rank of Ambassador.