

## **First Paper Assignment: Canada and International Society**

History 300 / for October 29, 2013

Each of the following scenarios asks you to see the world from a different angle – a more northerly angle. You will be consulting documents published in the annual series *Documents on Canadian External Relations*. The records in question have been declassified over the past decade or so and made available to the public; they have also been published on the web site of the Canadian foreign ministry.

Your assignment is to choose one of these scenarios and write a five-page, double-spaced analysis addressing the research questions posed on the basis of the Canadian foreign ministry documents. (More instructions on formatting below.) Obviously, you are not expected to offer a definitive history of the topic in question, but on average you should try to draw from at least 7 to 10 different documents. Try to formulate a thesis statement in your introductory paragraph; use this thesis to shape your argument as you respond to the questions raised.

Here's the URL: <http://www.international.gc.ca/history-histoire/documents-documents.aspx>

The web site is a little awkward to use; the documents can be located via a systematic table of contents. You may find it helpful to “collect” relevant documents by pasting them into a Word document of your own. Be *very* careful not to drop and paste excerpts into your own paper without properly identifying the source. Also, remember to structure your paper around your own argument. Don’t let these Canadians do the talking for you!

(More instructions on formatting appear below.)

### 1. Canada and the Korean War, 1950

Why did the Canadian government choose to support the international effort to expel the North Korean forces from South Korea in 1950? How did Canadian officials judge America’s leadership of the conflict, both before and after General MacArthur’s fateful decision to pursue the North Koreans back toward the Yalu River? (Vol. 16)

### 2. Selling arms in the Middle East, 1955-56

How did Canadian officials react to the idea of selling weapons and advanced aircraft to Egypt and Israel over the course of 1955 and the first half of 1956? What value did they see in coordinating their policies with the United States, the United Kingdom (Britain), and other Western powers? Overall, did Canada lean toward one side or the other in the Arab-Israeli conflict during the build-up to the Suez Crisis? If so, why? (Vols. 21-22)

### 3. Canada and the Decolonization of Africa, 1956-60

Starting with the Gold Coast (Ghana) and continuing on to the great decolonization wave of 1960, how did Canadian officials view the prospects of the newly independent states in Africa? Did they expect to see a smooth path toward prosperity? How threatening did Soviet-style communism appear on the African continent? (Vols. 22, 24, 26, 27. Note: some of these documents appear under “Commonwealth Relations”; in other cases they are grouped under “United Nations.”)

#### 4. Canada and the Lebanon Crisis, 1958

How did Canadian officials view the U.S. effort to create order in Lebanon (and the British stationing of troops in Jordan) in the summer of 1958? To what extent did Canada support the U.S. and British positions in the UN Security Council, and why? (Vol. 25)

#### 5. Canada and the Congo Crisis, 1960

How did the Canadian government seek to support the UN military mission in the Congo? What reservations did Canadian officials have about Patrice Lumumba? Why did Canada's involvement trigger Soviet complaints? (Vol. 27)

#### Formatting Guidelines

Please adhere to the following formatting standards.

- (1) Your paper should be double-spaced and written in a 12-point font.
- (2) At a minimum, your paper should run 1,500 words (with most fonts, that's around five pages). Please do not exceed eight pages.
- (3) When you are citing from the documents, I do not expect formal footnotes, but be sure to indicate where you are getting your information. This is particularly important in the case of direct quotes. You might, for example, wish to give a reference in parentheses at the end of your sentence; describe the document briefly and also include the reference number within the volume. (Green to the Cabinet, July 15, 1960; Vol. 27, Doc. 2).
- (4) Be sure to use formal English. Write in complete sentences; use punctuation appropriately; and be sure to spell-check your document!
- (5) Please submit a *stapled hard copy* of your paper.