

SEÁN LESTER PAPERS

P203



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SEÁN LESTER PAPERS

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Introduction

Provenance

The Seán Lester Papers were deposited in UCD Archives in February 2005 by his daughters, Dorothy Gageby, Ann Gorski and Patricia Kilroy.

Background

Seán Lester was born in Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim in 1888 and educated at Methodist College, Belfast. During his early career as a journalist he wrote for many titles including the *Portadown Express*, *County Down Spectator*, *Connacht Tribune*, *Dublin Evening Mail* and *The Freeman's Journal*. During this time he was actively involved in the independence movement, becoming a member of The Gaelic League, the Dungannon Clubs, and the IRB. In 1923 he joined the newly formed Department of External Affairs as Director of Publicity, a role he kept until 1925 when he was made Assistant Secretary in the department.

In 1929, he was sent to Geneva to become Permanent Delegate of the Irish Free State to the League of Nations, succeeding Michael MacWhite who was being transferred to Washington. In 1933, he was seconded from the Irish service to the post of High Commissioner of the League of Nations to the Free City of Danzig, where he showed great courage in protests against Nazi persecution of the Jews.

In 1937, he was given the role of Deputy Secretary-General, during the tense build up to the Second World War. The war, when it inevitably broke out, proved an anxious period for the League, and when the French Secretary-General, J. Avenol, left Geneva for Vichy in 1940, Lester took over the mantle and became Acting Secretary-General until the war was over. This was a crisis point for the League of Nations as it found itself in the centre of a war-torn Europe, precisely the situation which it had been founded to prevent. Lester was increasingly isolated and courageously stayed in Geneva to keep basic functions of the League working as normal during this hostile period. In 1946, Lester was retrospectively appointed Secretary-General, an appointment backdated to 1940.

It was clear that the League of Nations had failed in its original remit and would have to be replaced by a new international organisation. Lester stayed on as Secretary-General in Geneva until 1947 when the task of winding up the League came to an end, and functions and offices transferred to the United Nations Organisation. He retired to the west of Ireland where he indulged his passion for fishing, and refused all international calls for a return to service (see P203/99). He received honorary degrees from the National University of Ireland and from the University of Dublin, and also received the Woodrow Wilson award for his courageous service to the League of Nations during the war. He died at Galway in 1959. He had married Elizabeth (Elsie) Tyrrell in 1920 and had 3 daughters.

Arrangement

The collection is divided into seven sections (A-G). Section A concerns his early career as a journalist and as a civil servant in the Department of External Affairs. This material comprises reports, bulletins, correspondence and memoranda mostly concerning Government activity and particularly the North-Eastern Boundary Bureau.

Section B deals with his career with the League of Nations (1929-47) and comprises large annual files containing correspondence, excerpts from private diaries and reports. These files were compiled in the 1970s by Lester's daughter, Ann Gorski. The files contain some photocopied documents, the originals of which have been deposited in the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) Archives by Lester's daughters, Ann Gorski, Dorothy Gageby and Patricia Kilroy. Other material in this section comprises original correspondence, official Council minutes, and League publications.

Section C is a consolidated section spanning Lester's career from High Commissioner of Danzig to his retirement and contains the transcripts of speeches delivered by him on various occasions.

Section D is a small section concerning Lester's retirement and mainly contains correspondence. Section E contains a vast selection of press cuttings from 1912-59, as well as some publications concerning Danzig. Section F and G contain visual material in the form of maps, plans and drawings (F) and photographs (G).

Further reading

Gageby, Douglas, *The Last Secretary General: Seán Lester and the League of Nations*, Town House, Dublin, 1999.

Lisa Collins
October 2005

Chronology

1888	Born, Carrickfergus, Co Antrim
1909-11	Journalist with <i>Portadown Express</i>
1911-13	Journalist with <i>County Down Spectator</i>
1913	Journalist with <i>Connacht Tribune</i>
1913-6	Journalist with <i>Dublin Evening Mail</i> , <i>Irish Weekly Mail</i> and <i>Daily Express</i> .
1916-22	Journalist with <i>The Freeman's Journal</i>
1920	Married Elizabeth Ruth (Elsie) Tyrrell
1923-5	Director of Publicity, Department of External Affairs
1925-9	Assistant Secretary, Department of External Affairs
1929-33	Permanent Delegate of the Irish Free State at the League of Nations
1933-7	High Commissioner of the League of Nations to the Free City of Danzig
1937-40	Deputy Secretary-General of the League of Nations
1940-6	Acting Secretary-General of the League of Nations
1946	Retrospectively appointed Secretary-General of the League of Nations, an appointment backdated to 1940
1945-7	Winding up of the League of Nations
1947	Retired as Secretary-General of the League of Nations and moved to Ireland
1959	Died at Galway

A EARLY CAREER

I Journalist (1914–22)

- 1 24 September 1914 Copy letter from members of the Provisional Committee of the Irish Volunteers to the Irish Volunteers concerning their dissatisfaction with Redmond and stating that 'having thus disregarded the Irish Volunteers and their solemn engagements, Mr Redmond is no longer entitled, through his nominees, to any place in the administration and guidance of the Irish Volunteer organisation.' 2pp
- 2 August 1921 Leaflets entitled 'Letter from General Smuts to President de Valera' and 'Criticism of the letter of General Smuts.' General Jan Smuts was the Prime Minister of South Africa who travelled to Ireland in 1921 to assess whether Ulster could be brought into an Irish State. He decided it could not be achieved and called for reconciliation on all sides. 4pp
- 3 16 January 1922 Copy notice by Michael Collins, Chairman of the Provisional Government, stating that Dublin Castle was surrendered at 1.45 pm on 16 January 1922. 1pp
- 4 17 January 1922 Article from *The Freeman's Journal* entitled 'Surrender of Dublin Castle', outlining the sequence of events during the handover ceremony at Dublin castle. 2pp
- 5 1 February 1922 Letter from Gearóid Ó Súilleabháin, Office of Adjutant General, IRA, to Seán Lester, *The Freeman's Journal*, informing him that the paper (FJ) had just published a story about 40 Ennistymon men who were recruited from the Battalion of the Mid-Clare brigade to the Army of the Irish Free State. States that this statement is incorrect and that 'it would be inadvisable...to have things said about the Army at present.' 2pp

- 6 31 October- Memorandum entitled ‘The Sequence of Events’
 9 December 1922 outlining anti-treatyite activity, from the
 declaration of the Provisional Government as
 illegal, to the assassination of Seán Hales T. D., and the subsequent
 reprisal executions of Rory O’Connor, Liam Mellows, Joe McKelvey
 and Richard Barrett.
2pp
- 7 c. November 1922 Memorandum entitled ‘Destruction and
 Assassination’ concerning anti-treatyite
 threats to destroy all communication
 channels including road, railway, canal, telephone and telegraph. Also
 discusses the removal of ‘Irregular’ prisoners to internment camps and
 assassination attempts on Dáil Éireann members.
2pp
- 8 c. December 1922 Memorandum/newspaper article entitled
 ‘The Prophet’ and subtitled ‘Consistency
 for the dupes-inconsistency for the
 Leaders’ concerning Éamon de Valera and his new proclamation
 declaring the Irish Parliament, the Irish Government and its supporters
 as ‘illegal’.
2pp

II Director of Publicity, Department of External Affairs (1923–5)

- 9 c. 1922 ‘Secret’ memorandum on the condition of
 the Free State. Lengthy foreword dwells
 on the effect of bad conditions on
 constructive work, the Boundary Commission, and the necessity for
 peace. Main body of memorandum discusses the ‘Spartacus’ revolt in
 Germany in 1919 and how the present German government succeeded
 in overcoming that uprising. Analyses the methods it used to achieve
 this as an example of what the Free State government should do to
 quash ‘Irregular’ uprisings. Also discusses the Russian revolution of
 1917 and the reasons for its success, citing the use of propaganda as the
 main reason why Bolshevik Russia consolidated her triumph.
17pp

10 1922-3 North-Eastern Boundary Bureau Leaflets
and Pamphlets

File containing the following leaflets:

1. The Truth about the Ulster Boundaries
 2. England, Honour your Bond!
 3. England, Honour Your Bond!
 4. British Electors Uphold the Treaty!
 5. Diagram showing proportion per cent of total inhabitants in favour of Free State in North-East Ulster area
 6. Diagram showing proportion per cent of total votes cast in North-East Ulster area at General Election of 1918 in favour of all-Ireland Parliament
 - 5 (new) The Irish Boundary problem
 - 6 (new) Some points on the Irish Boundary Question
 7. The Purpose of the Boundary Commission
 8. Is the British Parliament Supreme in N. Ireland?
 9. North-East Ulster - Numerical Strength of Nationalists
-
- A. The Truth about the Boundary Question
 - B. If 'Ulster' contracts out
 - C. Boundary Position at a Glance
 - D. Reaction in North-East Ulster
 - E. The Land Frontier
 - F. The Boundary Position Explained
 - G. Fair Play for Minorities
 - H. The Treaty of Peace
 - I. 'Ulster and the Anglo-Irish Treaty' (A Statement by Mr Kevin O'Higgins)
 - J. The Boundary Problem-How it originated
 - K. 'Some facts about the Ulster Boundary' prepared by the Bureau on behalf of the nationalists of Tyrone and Fermanagh

23 items

11 24 November 1922- North Eastern Boundary Bureau-Weekly
Bulletins

File containing the following bulletins:

- No 1 General
- No 2 General
- No 3 General
- No 4 General
- No 5 General
- No 6 Derry and the Customs Frontier
- No 7 Gerrymandered Elections - Derry City – Enniskillen - Other Councils
- No 8 Great Britain and the Land Frontier
- No 9 General
- No 10 General
- No 11 The problem of Upper Silesia
- No 12 General

- No 13 The Customs Frontier
- No 14 General
- No 15 Belfast and the British Fiscal System
- No 16 The Linen Industry
- No 17 Back to Realities
- No 18 Peace and the Boundary Commission
- No 19 The Free State and 'Northern' Ireland Financial Positions compared
- No 20 Belfast 'Solidarity'
- No 21 Ireland's Two Nations
- No 22 The Boundary Commission
- No 23 Free State Construction - What Outsiders Think - Partition in Practice - The Moral of Dungloe
- No 24 The 'Irish News' Again
- No 25 Partition and the Farmer - Outline of the Bill - Outside the Scope - Canadian Cattle - Urban Supremacy
- No 26 The Belfast Press and President Cosgrave's Speech - President Cosgrave's Friendly Assurance - The 'Northern Whig's' Paradoxes - The Wishes of All Classes - The Rights of Ulster - Parliaments and Peoples
- No 27 A new Anti-Irish Campaign – Misrepresentations - The real Object of the Campaign
- No 28 Die-hard Imperialism - An Obsolete Conception - Co-Equal nations - Interdependent Organisms
- No 29 North-East Ulster's Intransigence - The Free State Position - Afraid of the Facts
- No 30 'We will not have _____!'- The Free State 'Twelfth' - A Century of Negotiations.
- No 31 The First Step
- No 32 After the Elections – A New Alliance – A Pure Invention
- No 33 Normal Politics
- No 34 General
- No 35 Gaelic Civilisation
- No 36 The Significance of the Elections – Adverse Conditions – Vote for the Treaty – Democratic Responsibility - The Enemies of Peace
- No 37 Among the Nations – An International Seal – The Fundamental Law – Belfast Contra Mundum – The Moral for the North-East
- No 38 Confusing the Issue – The realities of the Situation - Begging the Question – Undemocratic doctrines
- No 39 Partitionist Arguments – Political – Economic – Religious
- No 40 Ulster Liberalism – For Emancipation – Reaction – The National Organism
- No 41 Northern Financial Prospects
- No 42 Free State's Financial Position – An Encouraging Half Year
- No 43 Economic Unity – Domestic Trade – The Responsibility

43 items
c. 90pp

- 12 1922-3 Northern Minorities
 File containing lengthy memorandum on the situation of Catholic minorities in Northern Ireland. Discusses the worsening conditions of nationalist internees in the North and their consequent hunger strike; the oath of allegiance in Northern Ireland; atrocities such as the Belfast pogroms of 1920-2 and the Cushendall murders; expulsion of Catholics from Belfast; voting disabilities of Northern minorities; and the RUC and the Special Constabulary.
c. 100pp
- 13 26-27 February 1923 Cover letter from D. Ua Ceallaigh, Editor and Manager for *Iris an Ghárda*, to Seán Lester, Director of Publicity. Encloses *Iris an Ghárda*_Vol 1 No 1. Also includes facsimile reproduction of a photograph of Eoin O'Duffy, Chief Commissioner of An Garda Síochana, sitting at his desk.
10pp
- 14 31 March 1923 Cutting from *The Irish World and American Industrial Liberator* entitled 'Envoy O'Doherty answers two renegades.' The 'renegades' in question are W. T. Cosgrave, President of the Executive Council of the Irish Free State, and Desmond FitzGerald, Minister for External Affairs.
1 item
- 15 8-9 May 1923 Civil War Ceasefire 1923
 Copy correspondence between Éamon de Valera, Senators James Douglas and Andrew Jameson, and W. T. Cosgrave, concerning acceptable conditions for a cease-fire.
9pp
- 16 14-18 May 1923 Advertisements in *The Limerick Echo*
 File containing copy letters from Seán Lester, Director of Publicity, to Col. P. Brennan T.D., concerning the placement of Government advertisements in *The Limerick Echo*. Includes letter from Ministry of Home Affairs to Lester in which it is made clear that unless Col. Brennan can prove that the circulation of the *Echo* is greater than that of *Munster News*, government public notices will continue to be published in the latter newspaper.
5pp

- 17 12 April- CID Daily Reports to the Government
 3 October 1923 Publicity Department
 Daily reports sent by Captain [H.] S. Ó Muireadhaigh, and later, Lt. Seán P. Cox, of the Criminal Investigation Department, to Seán Lester, Director of Publicity. Reports outline the activities of the CID and contain details of raids, citing locations, what was seized and the name of the person(s) arrested.
c. 280pp
- 18 29 June 1923- Historical Documents
 10 December 1924 File containing copy letters from Seán Lester, Director of Publicity to various members of the government concerning the retention of historical documents relating to the foundation of the state. Enquires about the return of the documents which were taken to America; reels of film taken by Pathé News; handwritten documents by General Michael Collins and Arthur Griffith; and the original of Sir Roger Casement's last message to the Irish Brigade. Suggests in a letter to Diarmuid O'Hegarty, Secretary of the Executive Council that 'if these were collected they would form the nucleus of a collection which might be developed in future.'
6pp
- 19 20 June - General reports - Department of Military
 15 August 1923 Statistics
 Weekly or fortnightly reports Nos 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, and 9, concerning the military situation in the country following the anti-treatyite ceasefire of May 1923 and the run-up to the general election of 27 August 1923.
29pp
- 20 c. 1923 Duplicate of the agreement between Sir Roger Casement and State Secretary Zimmerman, Germany, signed in Berlin. Annotated: 'Original in possession of Mrs Keogh, mother of Sergeant-Major Keogh.'
2pp
- 21 8 July 1923 Letter from R. I. O., Department of Intelligence, Irish Republican Army, Field General Headquarters, 2nd Battalion, Carlow Brigade, requesting a weekly report on 'Enemy posts', 'Enemy intelligence', efforts made to tap telephone exchanges, post offices; and Free State political organisations.
1p

- 22 12 August 1923 Draft of notice issued by the Government Publicity Department, concerning a recently captured letter written by Frank Aiken, which warns that they [the anti-treatyites] would use poison gas, fire, high explosives and trench mortars to fight. 2pp
- 23 September 1922-
August 1923 List of legislative Acts of the Oireachtas of Saorstát Éireann, September 1922-August 1923. 9pp
- 24 1923 List of leaflets and the amount of copies printed of each [published by the Government Publicity Department]. Examples include 'Ireland's Opportunity' (4550); 'Dumps and Miss Mary MacSwiney' (1000); and 'Civil War' (1008). 3pp
- 25 22 August 1923 Cutting from *The Freeman's Journal* entitled 'Grim Tragedy of a Year Ago – graphic narrative of Michael Collins' last fight and death on bleak countryside.' 1 item
- 26 6 January 1925 Copy letter [from Lester?] to the editor of *The Irish Independent* concerning de Valera's 'back to 1917 war cry'. Asks whether the suffering during the War of Independence has been forgotten and whether de Valera thinks that he can 'get the Republic' without further war. 1p
- 27 c. 1925 Memorandum entitled 'What has the Government been doing?' Discusses the progress of the government in areas such as agriculture; trade; infrastructure; the Shannon electrification scheme; housing; unemployment; education; army; pensions; and membership of the League of Nations. [Produced by the Publicity Department] 10pp

B LEAGUE OF NATIONS**I Permanent Delegate of the Irish Free State (1929–33)**

- 28** 3 March- 1930
 16 December 1930 File containing papers relating to Seán Lester for the year 1930.
- Includes:
- Declaration by King George V conveying full power and plenipotentiary rights on Seán Lester as representative of the Irish Free State at the Convention on Financial Assistance at the 11th session of the Assembly of the League of Nations (2 October 1930).
 - Letter from Con O’Leary, Cassell & Co. Ltd, London, to Seán Lester (‘Jack’) asking him whether he could get a job for an unnamed man in the Free State (undated).
 - Letter from [Frank Cremins] concerning Lester’s position in Geneva (3 March 1930).
 - Letters from Seán Lester to Joseph P. Walshe, Secretary of the Department of External Affairs, concerning the Disarmament Commission.
- 18pp
- 29** 4 March; 1931
 14 September 1931 File containing two letters on unrelated topics.
- Includes:
- Copy letter from Seán Lester to [?], concerning the International Labour Conference. Explains that delegates are made up of representatives from each country, of employers, labour organisations and the government. Identifies the previous year’s employers’ delegate from the Free State as Mr Sutton of Cork and quotes him praising Lester as a ‘fine representative’ and impressed by his ‘very able handling of affairs at the conference. (4 March 1931, 1p)
- 2pp
- 30** 8 March- 1932
 27 December 1932 Correspondence, reports and memoranda concerning topics such as the Special China Assembly; the Sino-Japanese controversy; funding for the Free State’s office in Geneva; the workings of the League of Nations; the International Labour Conference; the Disarmament Conference; admission of Turkey to the League of Nations; de Valera’s battle with the Governor-General; the International Economic and Monetary Conference; the Secretary-Generalship of the League of Nations; the dismissal of Signor Grandi and other Italian ministers; the Aga Khan and the land annuities question; the Lausanne Conference on Monetary and Economic Questions; the Economic War; voting on the

adjournment resolution of the Disarmament Conference; world opinion on the land annuities dispute between the Irish Free State and Britain; a campaign for an increase in personal allowances; the resignation of Sir James Eric Drummond as Secretary-General of the League; the search for documents lodged by Joseph Plunkett in Berne in 1916; and the dispute between Britain and Persia concerning the Anglo-Persian Oil Company. Most correspondence on subjects mentioned above are copy letters from Lester to Joseph Walshe, Secretary of the Department of External Affairs. Also includes two cartoons containing caricatures of League of Nations delegates and representatives.

c. 160pp

31

24 January-
July 1933

1933

Correspondence, reports and notes concerning *inter alia* the disputes between Peru and Colombia, Bolivia and Paraguay, and China and Japan; the oppression of the Jews in German Upper Silesia; the presidency of the League of Nations Assembly; and international disarmament. Includes minutes of the League of Nations council meetings concerning above topics. Most correspondence directed to Joseph Walshe, Secretary of the Department of External Affairs.

Includes:

- Copy letter from Lester to Joseph Walshe, Secretary of the Department of External Affairs concerning the disputes between Peru and Colombia, and Bolivia and Paraguay. States that history has been made in Geneva as a committee of which he has been president has proposed and accepted the formation of an international army to take over temporarily a disputed territory in Peru/Colombia; and also that arrangements are in progress for the declaration of a League embargo on arms for two countries, Bolivia and Paraguay. (4 March 1933, 3pp)
- Official League of Nations document A (Extr) 22.1933.VII entitled 'Appeal of the Chinese Government' in which a summary of the Sino-Japanese dispute is recounted, noting the disputed territory of Manchuria in China and subsequent Japanese occupation of the area and its re-designation as 'Manchuko' (16 February 1933, 27pp)
- Anonymous letter to Seán Lester thanking him for the stance he took at Geneva against the oppression of the Jews in German Upper Silesia. Relates the 'secret whisper' of atrocities perpetrated by Germans against the Jews and implores Lester to keep the eyes of the world focused on the German government (8 June 1933, 4pp)
- Bulletin entitled 'The Persecution of the Jews in Germany' published by the Joint Foreign Committee of the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the Anglo-Jewish Association. (May 1933, 42pp)

c. 575pp

II High Commissioner to the Free City of Danzig (1933–7)

- 32 25 January 1934- 1934 Part 1
29 May 1934 Correspondence, reports and memoranda concerning Seán Lester in his role as High Commissioner of the League of Nations to the Free City of Danzig. Topics include *inter alia* Poland's relations with Danzig; a treaty of non-aggression between Poland and Germany; the flying of Nazi or German monarchist flags on Danzig government buildings on the occasions of Hitler's accession to power and the birthday of the Kaiser respectively; the activities of the National Socialist Party in Danzig and the growth of semi-military organisations such as the SA and the SS; the replacement of the Municipal Council of Danzig by a State Commissioner; the development of religious feeling following resistance of the Catholic Boys' Organisation to absorption by Hitler Youth; anti-Jewish propaganda in Danzig; and the independence of the Danzig judiciary.
- Includes:
- Copy letter from Lester to Éamon de Valera, President of the Executive Council describing the welcome he has received from the Danzig and Polish governments on his arrival at Danzig. Remarks how Poles, Germans and Danzigers 'are united in their beliefs that an Irishman will understand their respective points of view and will defend their respective interests.' Expresses concern about Danzig's liberal constitution and the National Socialist government, and feels that 'it will be almost impossible to maintain the old ideas of democracy in this little state in Northern Europe.' (16 February 1934, 3pp)
 - Copy of letter from Lester to J. Avenol, Secretary-General of the League of Nations, concerning a recent visit by Reichsführer der S.S. Himmler and S.A. Gruppenführer Schoene to Danzig, where 12,000 men paraded on the occasion accompanied by two squadrons of horsemen and a company of motor cyclists. Remarks – 'The situation as I find it on my arrival in Danzig is, therefore, that a minimum of twelve thousand men in the territory of the Free City are organised on what is no doubt a semi-military basis, and drilled and uniformed....They carry the same flag as in Germany; their officers have made the same declaration of loyalty to the Führer; they are occasionally inspected by superior officers from Germany itself. The sentiment behind the movement is, of course, German nationalism, and as one would expect in a city of Germans who have been cut off by treaty, it is very strong.' (13 March 1934, 2pp)
 - Partial memorandum concerning increasing influence of the Nazi government in Danzig, ranging from pressure on schoolchildren to join Hitler Youth, to beatings for not saluting National Socialist flags. (1934, 3pp)

c. 200pp

accusation by President Greiser that Lester was responsible for newspaper articles reporting the violent disorder in the Volkstag; attacks on American Jews in Danzig; oppression of opposition parties partaking in the election; strained relations between Lester and President Greiser; the failure of the National Socialist Party to achieve their much vaunted 80% majority in the election; the devaluation of the Gulden; and the arrest of Theodor Loevy, editor of *The Danziger Echo*, a small Jewish weekly.

Includes:

Personal letter from Lester to Professor J. M. O'Sullivan T. D., Co. Dublin, in which he discusses his role in Danzig and his analysis of political events there. Notes that he has one year of his term as High Commissioner left and that he has indicated to the Council that he does not desire a renewal of his appointment. 'I did not accept the post originally from any feeling of personal ambition and to be quite frank, I feel that I have got any personal experience which would be valuable here and that the question of prestige for our small service should also be satisfied. There has been a hint from home that I might take a second term but I find that difficult to understand in view of the way I was treated following my acceptance in 1933.' (9 January 1935, 2pp)

c. 200pp

35

2 July-

1935 Part 2

21 December 1935

Correspondence memoranda and reports concerning Seán Lester as High

Commissioner of the League of Nations in Danzig. Topics include: alleged continuation of anti-Jewish campaign in the city; strained relations between Danzig and Poland; the arrest of judges in Danzig; the compulsory sending of men to work in Germany; suppression of the newspaper *Volkstimme*; the augmentation of the semi-military Landespolizei from 350 to 865 men since 1933; a slight to Lester by President Greiser by placing a visiting German admiral in the seat of honour at an official dinner; the disbandment of the Landespolizei; strained relations between Gauleiter Forster and President Greiser; the display of Nazi party flags and emblems from State buildings; a proposal for amnesty for all political offences; and the declaration by President Greiser that the Senate has declined to put into operation some of the principle recommendations of the Council [of the League of Nations], and that the National Socialists obey only their leaders. Most correspondence directed to J. Avenol, Secretary-General of the League of Nations.

Includes:

Memorandum by Lester concerning a meeting in Dublin with Joseph P. Walshe, Secretary of the Department of External Affairs, and Éamon de Valera, President of the Executive Council and Minister for External Affairs. Reveals that he told de Valera that 'he had enough of the job, one of the most difficult and unpleasant in Europe' and sought a move back to the Irish foreign service. States that de Valera said it would be a

pity not to accept reappointment as the position, although not representing the Free State, was prestigious and 'a feather in our cap'. Claims that he felt that de Valera had been briefed by Walshe and recalls the treatment he received from Walshe when he first accepted the appointment in 1933. Concludes that Walshe does not want him back in the service. (August 1935, 1p)

c. 250pp

36

3 January-
24 June 1936

1936 Part 1

Correspondence, memoranda and reports concerning Seán Lester during his time as High Commissioner for the League of Nations. Topics include the position of the High Commissioner in relation to the constitution of Danzig; the influence of Gauleiter Forster on the government in Danzig; the low regard in which the National Socialist party in Danzig and Berlin hold Gauleiter Forster and the suggestion that he remains only because of Hitler's sentimental interest; implementation of some of the League of Nations Council recommendations including the composition of the courts; Ehrenschutz law being revoked and new law concerning the wearing of uniforms being introduced; the suppression of newspapers of the Centre and Deutschnational parties, and the publication of a National Socialist newspaper continuously inciting violence against the opposition; interference with Lester's correspondence with Geneva prompting him to find other means of communication rather than trust the Danzig Post Office; anti-Polish sentiment following Hitler's reoccupation of the de-mutualised zone; a vitriolic speech by Gauleiter Forster containing anti-Semitic sentiments and promises of Danzig's liberation by Germany; irregularities in Danzig's public accounts; recruitment in Danzig for the German army; the celebration of Hitler's birthday in Danzig; matters of educational policy in Danzig schools; Lester's acceptance of another year in office; the gravity of the situation in the city following a National Socialist attack on a German National Party meeting leaving one dead and between 40 and 50 injured; rivalry between Gauleiter Forster and President Greiser; and the crisis through which the League in general is passing.

Includes: Letter to Joseph Walshe, Secretary, Department of External Affairs, informing him that he will remain in office as High Commissioner at Danzig for another year. Adds 'I left it of course to be clearly understood at Geneva that with reasonable notice I should be at the disposition of my Government if recalled at any time prior to the end of the new term. The object of this was merely to emphasize that I was a servant of the Irish State, on loan.' (28 May 1936, 2pp)

Includes: Letter to Joseph Avenol, Secretary-General, in which he reports on a meeting of Gauleiters in Berlin the previous week. Another Gauleiter thanked Forster for describing his work in Danzig and proposed the customary 'Seig Heil!' for the 'High Commissioner of Danzig appointed by Adolf Hitler, Gauleiter Albert Forster'. Continues by noting the crisis through which the League is passing, and the

consequent repercussions of this in Danzig-‘We have now gained another respite as far as the maintenance of the legal situation is concerned and it is of course possible that this may continue or, at any rate, that if and when another crisis arises that also may be dealt with locally, without more serious results than the unfortunate High Commissioner again becoming a cock-shot as happened last year.’ (23 June 1936, 5pp)

c. 230pp

37

25 June-
23 December 1936

1936 Part 2

Correspondence, memoranda, press

cuttings and reports. Topics covered

include the refusal of Captain Schenk of the German cruiser ‘Leipzig’ to pay a courtesy visit to Lester during the ship’s stay in the Port of Danzig; the placing of a member of the Danzig political police outside the door of Lester’s office without his consent or any explanation from the Danzig government thus preventing any opposition party political members from visiting; mounting propaganda against Lester and the League of Nations by National Socialists and their perceived interference with the destiny of Danzig; Lester’s ‘recall’ to Geneva used as propaganda by the National Socialist Senate when in fact he had been offered the post as Deputy Secretary-General; and the decision by the Council of the League of Nations to entrust Poland with an attempt to establish relations between Danzig and Geneva.

Also contains typescript notes concerning Lester’s last six months in Danzig. Lester notes: ‘The following fragments are the only notes I have my last six months in Danzig apart from very few personal letters to Avenol. The reason they are so fragmentary and that I have only now attempted to assemble them was that the crisis in Danzig developed so quickly and in such uncertainty that I could not safely keep any record of certain matters, whether in my house or my office. For three months at any rate I was not at all sure that my house and office might not be occupied any day by the political police or the storm troopers. There always remained the normal danger of espionage, notably from Borchard, the butler, who had been in close communication with Forster or from Laemmer, the minor clerk in my office, whom I had caught in the act of espionage with regard to my letters.’ (c. December 1936)

Includes: Private diary entry commenting on the abdication of Edward VIII. ‘From the point of view of Irish national development it is a little doubtful and is of course contrary to the development of a separate kingdom with a divisible monarch which was the line on which Kevin O’Higgins worked. It may be argued that by coming under the Commonwealth umbrella, we form our diplomatic front internationally whereas under the other line of development there might have been more legal justification for a more theoretical independence if de Valera has himself, however, and this is interesting, accepted the king, even for such limited purposes.’ (22 December 1936)

c. 150pp

- 38** 1933-4 Danzig-Haut Commissaire
Early documents concerning Lester's time in Danzig. Includes report by the representative of the United Kingdom to the League of Nations on the constitution of Danzig; a general report by Lester for the Council on the situation in Danzig; a list of disputes submitted to the High Commissioner (Rosting) between October 1932 and January 1934, and their resultant outcomes; and nomination of Lester to the High Commissioner's post.
37pp
- 39** October 1933-
19 March 1936 Copies of official documents retained by Lester concerning the Free City of Danzig. Includes the official journal of the League of Nations; minutes of Council meetings; League reports; and ordinances and judgements.
c. 685pp
- 40** 26 January-
12 December 1934 Danzig 1934-Correspondence with Office of the High Commissioner
Letters and notes by Lester concerning events in the Free City of Danzig. Most letters are addressed to the Secretary-General, J. Avenol. Other letters are to Mr. Krabbe, Political Section of the League of Nations and Frank Walters, Under Secretary-General. Notes are recorded by Lester about his meetings and interviews with Danzig political figures such as Herr von Radowitz, the German Consul-General; M. de Lieto, Italian Consul-General; M. Valcke, Belgian Consul-General; Mr. Koch, Danish Consul and Doyen of the Consular Corps; Dr. Ferbee; Albert Forster, leader of the National Socialist Party in Danzig; Herr Prost of the Socialist Party; Dr Boettcher of the Danzig Senate; Monsignor Count O'Rourke, Bishop of Danzig; General Le Rond (one time Governor of Silesia, now Chairman of an international shipbuilding company in Danzig); Dr Stachwik, leader of Centre Party; Chief Justice von Hagen; and Mr Budding, Regierungs President for East Prussia.
180pp
- 41** c. 1936 Postcard of Nazi officer with words and musical notation to 'Horst Wessel's Lied' (Horst Wessel's song).
1 item
- 42** 19 March 1940 Report of M. Carl Burckhardt, High Commissioner of the League of Nations at Danzig (successor to Lester) outlining the tense standoff between Poland, Germany and the League of Nations which resulted in the German takeover of Danzig and Poland in September 1939.
16pp

III Deputy Secretary-General (1937–40)

- 43 30 September- Telegrams and letters of congratulations
15 October 1936 to Seán Lester on the announcement of
his appointment as Deputy Secretary-
General of the League of Nations from Erik Colban; R. M. Smyllie; [?] Wentheimer; Joseph P. Walshe, Secretary of the Department of External Affairs; John Leyden, Department of External Affairs; J. M. Barreto, Chargé d’Affaires du Péru; Raimondo Giustiniani; Joseph Nisot; Camille Pone; G Bruccoleri; G. D. Vetch; Arthur Sweetzer; Erich Pirost; Mani Sanasen; Alec Loveday; Fannie Fern Andrews; G. Abraham; Winifred A. Tomkinson; Hugh McKinnon Wood; Lawrence G. Tomby; Eithne Kennedy O’Byrne; Enrico Guistiniani; F. R. McMaster; Ralph Butler; Gabrielle Radziwill; H. R. Cummings; Neville Laski; Norman Bentwich of the Council for German Jewry; Ernest Blythe; Waldemar Quaiser; Gretta Lester; Thomas J. Coyne; [Frederick] Boland; Tommy Gates; Count G. O’Kelly de Gallagher; Gerald A. Tomkinson; and Seán Murphy.
- 38 items
- 44 6 January- 1937
December 1937 Correspondence and diary entries relating
to Seán Lester during the last few weeks
of his role as High Commissioner of the League of Nations to Danzig, and his transition to the Deputy Secretary–Generalship of the League of Nations (18 February 1937). Topics under discussion include the possibility of a recrudescence of the Danish-Polish conflict; the appointment of a successor to Lester at Danzig; and changes in British government personnel. Includes transcripts of speeches by Lester outlining his experiences with the League of Nations thus far.
- c. 150pp
- 45 1 March- 1938
2 December 1938 Mainly correspondence and some
memoranda and speech transcripts
concerning the workings of the League. Many letters refer to journalistic reports of resignations amongst the high officials of the League which the League refutes, and discussions about the League’s ultimate role in the Free City of Danzig.
Includes: Letter from Seán Lester to J. Avenol, Secretary-General, marked ‘Confidential’, in which he discusses the future role of the High Commissioner at Danzig and concludes that it is of no further use. States ‘the ultimate future of Danzig was settled in the autumn of 1936, and subsequent events have confirmed it. The present arrangement may last one or two years but I do not expect either the League or its High Commissioner to be allowed to play a part in the final discussion. I

should like to think that we should be able to retire with dignity but nothing in recent history encourages such hope.' (3 November 1938, 2pp)

c. 60pp

- 46 15 January- 1939
 2 December 1939 Memoranda and letters for this period concerning topics such as salary restructuring for higher League officials; the New York Commissioner to the League of Nations; and the role of the League if war in Europe breaks out.
Includes: Circulars issued by J. Avenol, Secretary-General, concerning actions to be taken by the League if war in Europe breaks out. Appeals to all officials 'to preserve the dignity and calm which should characterise the members of an international organisation and to refrain from doing or saying anything that might cause undue alarm as to the future of the Secretariat.' (20 April 1939)

c. 60pp

IV Secretary-General (1940–7)

- 47 9 June- 1940
 14 November 1940 Memoranda, circulars, telegrams and letters concerning *inter alia* the controversial resignation of J. A. Avenol, Secretary-General of the League and the subsequent appointment of Seán Lester to the position; the debate whether to move League headquarters from Geneva during the war; the refusal by Spain to allow League officials including Lester to cross Spanish frontiers en route to a meeting of the Supervisory Council in Lisbon; and tensions between Lester and Seymour Jacklin, Treasurer of the League. Many letters are in code - key supplied.
Includes: Extract from diary entry concerning Avenol's final departure from the League following two months of an internal crisis caused by his policies on the future of the League for the duration and after the war. Describing a tense luncheon hosted by the treasurer, Jacklin, Lester notes: 'Jacklin told me that Avenol had objected when informed that Aghnides and I would be present, but that Jacklin replied that it was his luncheon. When I walked into the room and had shaken hands with Jacklin, I suddenly heard Avenol's voice booming and he crossed the room to shake hands with me, gave half a bow and in a sarcastic tone said: 'Bonjour Monsieur le secrétaire-général'. His intention, his tone, his manner were so obvious that I felt as though he had slapped me on the face. I however stammered 'Bonjour mon cher ancien collègue'. Avenol turned away like a shot.' (27 August 1940)

c. 100pp

- 48** 18 January- 1941
 18 December 1941 Correspondence between Lester;
 Seymour Jacklin, Treasurer of the League
 of Nations; C. J. Hambro, President of the Norwegian Parliament and
 head of the Supervisory Commission of the League of Nations during
 the war; Roger Makins, British Foreign Office; Alec Loveday, Institute
 for Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey (where some League
 offices were transferred during the war), concerning moving some of
 the League's offices to Princeton University in the U. S.; the transfer of
 the International Labour Organisation to Canada; France's resignation
 from the League; the future role of the League; the possibility of a
 British-American Commonwealth; the discovery that Lester's name
 was on a recent British list of suspects; the difficulties facing Lester
 manning an understaffed and poorly financed Secretariat; and tensions
 between the Secretariat and the I. L. O.
Includes:
 Letter from Lester to Seymour Jacklin concerning the Supervisory
 Commission's treatment of the Secretariat in comparison to the I. L. O.
 Complains that the I. L. O. have not had to make as many budgetary
 sacrifices as the Secretariat and are heavily politically backed unlike the
 Secretariat which is struggling financially and involved in more
 technical than political activities. Remarks that Edward Phelan, head of
 the I. L. O., has been a remarkable leader of the organisation but that he
 was now proposing that the I. L. O. take over some of the
 responsibilities of the Secretariat. Asks Jacklin to reveal the intentions
 of the Supervisory Commission and how it is going to affect his future.
 (11 November 1941)
- 70pp
- 49** 1 January- 1942
 22 November 1942 Correspondence with Roger Makin,
 British Foreign Office; Seymour Jacklin,
 Treasurer of the League of Nations; Professor Osten Unden, Chancellor
 of Uppsala University, Sweden; President A. Costa du Rels, President
 of the League of Nations and ambassador for Bolivia in Buenos Aires;
 Alec Loveday, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey;
 Anthony Eden, British Foreign Office; and Sir Cecil Kisch, member of
 the Supervisory Commission. Topics include U. S. backing of the I. L.
 O. and the successful Labour Conference held in New York; the
 division of work of the League Secretariat between Princeton and
 Geneva; Sweden's refusal to pay their contribution to the League since
 the beginning of the war while concurrently paying their subvention to
 the I. L. O.; financial staffing difficulties of the Secretariat; the threat
 that Switzerland will be invaded and that the Secretariat as an
 organisation will cease to exist; the suggestion that the Deputy
 Secretary-General be sent to the U. S. and London so that the functions
 of the Secretary-General are in two separate locations; the fear that if
 Lester leaves Geneva to attend a Supervisory Commission meeting, he
 will be prevented from returning thus ensuring collapse of the League;

increase in the salary of the director of the I. L. O. (E. J. Phelan) but a refusal to grant a similar increase to Lester; the position of France in the League and the fact that notice has been given to Vichy on its exit from the League.

Includes: Letter from Anthony Eden, British Foreign Office, concerning Lester's difficult position in Geneva. 'The fact that you are still keeping the flag flying at Geneva has, quite apart from the technical work which the secretariat can still usefully do, a moral and political significance which could perhaps only be accurately measured if you were ever obliged to haul it down. It is an outward sign of the hollowness and transience of the German 'New Order' and I therefore hope that you will find conditions not too intolerable to enable you to carry on your rather thankless task for as long as you can'. (28 May 1942)

c. 70pp

- 50** 12 January- 1943
 30 December 1943 Diary entries and correspondence with Alec Loveday, Princeton University; Seymour Jacklin, Treasurer of the League of Nations; Roger Makins, British Foreign Office; Sir William Strang, UK representative on the European Advisory Commission; Michael MacWhite, Irish Envoy to the Quirinal, Rome; Elizabeth Wiskemann, British Embassy in Berne, Switzerland; Thonassis Aghnides; C. J. Hambro, President of the Supervisory Commission; J. M. Yepes, Consul General of Colombia in Switzerland; Frank Cremins, Irish Legation, Berne; [?] Jacobsson; Frank Walters; and Elliot Felkin. Topics of discussion include the fear of invasion of Switzerland by Axis forces; Vichy France and the French position in the League; reform of British foreign policy; the arrival of the Finnish minister and General Mannerheim, chief of the Finnish armed forces in Zurich apparently for negotiations with the Allies; continuing tensions between Lester and the I. L. O. mainly concerning contributions paid from member-states, as well as a perceived separatist policy to establish French membership of the I. L. O. as something independent and distinct from France's membership of the League; Mussolini's resignation as leader of Italy; Lester's dismay that members of the Commission outside Geneva regard him as a figurehead with little real work to do; financial and staffing issues; relationship between Switzerland and the League in view of her non-payment of League contributions for 4 consecutive years; the neutral position of the Irish Free State during the war; the effect of a 'sensational' speech delivered by General Smuts of South Africa; and the future of Europe and her nation-states.

c.180pp

- 51** 4 January - 1944 Part A
 14 June 1944 Extracts from private diary entries, personal memoranda, and correspondence with Thomas H. McKittrick, Basle, Switzerland; Martin Hill, Princeton

University; Seymour Jacklin, Treasurer, League of Nations; Clifford Norton, British Legation, Berne; Alen Dulles, U. S. Intelligence Service; Henry Livingstone, British Consulate, Geneva; William E. Rappard, Institute Universitaire des Hautes Études Internationales, Geneva; Frieherr von Rheinbaben, Geneva; U. C. Melas, Greek delegate to the League of Nations; and Alec Loveday, Princeton University. Topics under discussion include the future of Europe; the League and the International Red Cross; Joseph Avenol, the former Secretary-General's escape from French Savoy to Geneva; and an American proposal to found a new international peacekeeping organisation to replace the League of Nations.

Includes: Letter from Lester to Jacklin in which he discusses the return of Avenol and the difficulties he has in this regard: 'There may be a great deal to be said, in generosity, for a number of French people who became collaborationists abandoning their ally and thinking they could serve France by joining with the invader both for the present and the future: even the most notorious of them, and it will be for the French people in the first case to deal with people of this kind, as it will be for the Dutch and Norwegians to deal with their own Nazis. But there was nothing whatever to be said for a man who held an international trust and who having failed to betray it through no lack of will of his own eventually abandoned his post. I have been hoping that all this was history and that I would not have my difficulties further added to. Perhaps that will prove to be the case in spite of his reappearance here.' (25 February 1944)

c. 200pp

52

28 June-
31 December 1944

1944 Part B

Extracts from personal diary entries, memoranda, and correspondence with Sir Alexander Cadogan, British Foreign Office; Seymour Jacklin, Treasurer of the League of Nations; Frank Cremins, Irish Legation, Berne; Carl J. Hambro, President of the Supervisory Commission of the League, Montreal, Carl Burckhardt, International Committee of the Red Cross; M. C. Melas, Greek Legation, Geneva; Seán T. Ó Ceallaigh, Tánaiste, Dublin; Alec Loveday, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton; and John A. Belton, High Commissioner for Ireland, London. Topics discussed include the nomination of Seymour Jacklin to the role of Under-Secretary-General; the liberation of the south of France by Allied Forces; Lester's visit to London and Dublin to meet with British Foreign Office and League committees as well as a few days reunited with family; reform of the League of Nations or founding an entirely new organisation; the debate on the location of the new United Nations HQ.

Includes: First report of the Supervisory Commission for 1944.

c. 100pp

- 53 19 January 1945- 1945 Part A
 30 June 1945 Private diary extracts, memoranda and correspondence with C. J. Hambro, President of the Supervisory Commission; Alex Loveday, Princeton University; Donald F. Boyd, British Broadcasting Corporation, London; Dr Joseph H. Willits, Director of the Social Science Department, the Rockefeller Foundation, New York; Joseph P. Walshe, Secretary of Department of External Affairs, Dublin; John G. Winant, Embassy of the U. S. A. in London; Henri Vigier, Geneva; James M. Tyrell, Los Angeles, California; Benjamin Gerig, Fairmont, San Francisco; A. D. K. Owen, British Delegation, San Francisco. Topics under discussion include Lester's salary; Lester's return to Dublin and visit to London; his meeting with Edward Phelan, head of the I. L. O., for the first time in 4 years; a BBC transcript of a recording by Lester about Danzig; Alec Loveday's observations of Fascism as a political ideology; League meetings in London; the decision that the new international organisation (United Nations) will take over many of the duties and responsibilities of the old League of Nations; new responsibility of keeping the League going until all functions are absorbed by the United Nations; the relationship of the inter-governmental committee with the general international organisation; the United Nations first conference in San Francisco and Lester's attendance as unofficial representative of the League of Nations.
Includes: Diary entries describing in detail the conference in San Francisco; news that the war had ended in Europe; how former League officials were treated at the Conference; American reaction to de Valera's visit of condolence to the German Legation in Dublin on the occasion of Hitler's death.
- c. 150pp
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- 54 2 July- 1945 Part B
 20 December 1945 Private diary extracts and correspondence between Lester and Nancy Kirwan, Independent Newspapers, London; Seymour Jacklin, Treasurer of the League of Nations; Alec Loveday, Princeton University; H. Vilate, Geneva; Arthur Sweetzer, Office of War Information, Washington; Anthony Eden, House of Commons, London; Philip Noel Barker, Foreign Office, London; Aodh de Blacam, *Irish Press*, Dublin; T. Aghnides, Greek Embassy, London; Earl of Perth, Oakley Manor, Basingstoke; Frank Walters, Bexhill-on-Sea; and C. J. Hambro, Stortinget President, Oslo, Norway. Topics include the last stages of the League and the Assembly; difficulties posed by Joseph Avenol, former Secretary-General; transfer of League duties to the new United Nations organisation; decisions about the retention of League staff; resignation of Alec Loveday; reports about the concentration camps; meeting with Dr Robert Collis, chief Red Cross doctor in the liberated Belsen camp; the expenditure of the Secretariat since 1940; notification from the Woodrow Wilson Foundation that Lester will be conferred the

Woodrow Wilson award for distinguished service; Russian blocking of a move for a 'general transfer' of League activities to the United Nations and their proposal of a 'piecemeal transfer'; and the proposal that the seat of the United Nations be in the U. S. A.

Includes: Copy of an open letter from Frank Walters to C. J. Hambro, president of the Supervisory Council, expressing his dismay at the proposals which the Commission is putting forward for the take-over of the property of the League, particularly the proposal that the library and archives should become the property of the United Nations (8 December 1945).

c. 130pp

- 55 1 January- 1946
 25 December 1946 Memoranda, correspondence and extracts from Lester's private diary. Correspondents include Nancy Kirwan, *Irish Independent*; Earl Perth (formerly Sir Eric Drummond); Léopold Boissier, Geneva; R. J. P. Mortishead, Dublin; A. Ganem; Alec Loveday, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton; R. M. Campbell, Acting High Commissioner for new Zealand; Colonel Terence Maxwell, London; Thomas H. McKittrick; Hon. Philip Noel Baker, British Foreign Office; John L. Schuyleman, Kentucky; Herr E. Brost, Radio Hamburg, Germany; E. J. Phelan, International Labour Organisation; Isidro Fabela, Judge of the International Court of Justice; Arthur Sweetzer, Department of State, Washington; Seymour Jacklin, Treasurer of the League of Nations, Geneva; Frank Cremins, Irish legation, Switzerland; C. J. Hambro, President of the Supervisory Commission; Clifford Nolan, British Embassy to Greece; W. Moderow, Chairman of the United Nations Negotiating Committee; Atul Chaterjee, Geneva; Walter Borchardt, Berlin; Manley O'Hudson, Harvard Law School; John D'Alton, Archbishop-Elect of Armagh; J. G. Ward, Foreign Office London; C. W. Burckhardt, Swiss Legation, Paris; William E. Rappard, Geneva; Hugh McKinnon Wood, London; Leland Harrison, Minister for the U. S. in Switzerland; Mabel FitzGerald, Dublin; and Hume Wrong, Ottawa. Topics include the liquidation of the League of Nations and its transfer of functions to the United Nations; the final League Assembly in April 1946; and the opening of the United Nations Assembly in September/October.

c. 250pp

- 56 9 January- 1947
 28 November 1947 Private diary extracts and correspondence with Judge Manly O'Hudson, Harvard Law School; Mademoiselle C. Nonin, United Nations; C. J. Hambro, Chairman of the Board of Liquidation of the League of Nations; Frank Walters, Buckinghamshire; Frau Anni Kalahne, Germany; Éamon de Valera, Minister for External Affairs (and Taoiseach), Dublin; A. S. Sweetzer, Washington Information Office for United Nations; Trygve Lie, Secretary-General of the United Nations; A. B. Elkin, Geneva; H.

Gallois, International Labour Office; R. M. Mortished, writer, Dublin; J. H. Chapman; F. T. Boland, Department of External Affairs, Dublin; V. Duckworth Barker, Director of Information Centre, United Nations; Robert Dudley Edwards, University College Dublin; Albert Picot; Max Petitpierre, Berne; Alec Loveday, Oxford; Sir Cecil Kisch, London; and O. Zimmermann, Geneva. Topics include the final liquidation of the League of Nations and the resignation of Seán Lester; Lester's permanent return to Ireland; the case of the Free City of Danzig which was administered by Poland after the war; the conferring upon Lester of an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from Trinity College Dublin; and the proposal to establish an International Affairs Institute.

Includes: Letter from Lester to Éamon de Valera, Minister for External Affairs and Taoiseach, debriefing him on the occasion of the end of his secondment from the National Service. Outlines in detail the work of the previous thirteen years from his time as High Commissioner at Danzig to Acting Secretary-General of the League of Nations. Concludes: 'Now my period of secondment is coming to an end and I am able to make a personal report to you of my stewardship and conduct, in full loyalty to my oath of office. I have not been able to have many direct contacts with you during these thirteen or fourteen years, but always I have felt that I had your full confidence and sympathy not only as an international official, but also as an Irishman assigned to onerous tasks. I have never been ambitious, I sought none of these posts, and throughout these thirteen years have always maintained my full personal independence. Equally, however, I have not shirked work and responsibility and have often been sustained by the belief and conviction that in all that I have done as an international personality, I have also been serving my own country.' (11 June 1947)

Includes: Diary entry recalling a conversation with Frederick Boland of the Department of External Affairs. On listening to Boland discussing Lester's future involvement with the Department, Lester made the decision to retire. Also mentions to Boland that he had only discovered 14 years too late that he had been seconded from the Department with no pension rights. (2 September 1947)

85pp

V Official Minutes, Reports and Publications (1925–47)

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|---|---------|
| 57 | 16 October 1925 | Text of the treaty between Germany, Belgium, France, Great Britain and Italy agreed at Lorcano, as well as an analysis of the agreements reached. | c. 30pp |
|----|-----------------|---|---------|

- 58** 18 September 1926 Communications from the Swiss Federal Council to members of the council of the League of Nations concerning the regime of diplomatic immunity of the staff of the League of Nations. Annotated 'modus vivendi'.
8pp
- 59** 13 June 1927 Reports and resolutions on the subject of Article 16 of the League of Nations covenant which deals with the application of the international economic and financial blockade, i.e. the immediate severance of all trade, financial or other relations with a State which has had recourse to war; the prohibition of all financial commercial or personal intercourse between the nationals of the covenant-breaking State, whether a member of the League or not.
95pp
- 60** [14] March 1933-
5 October 1936 Minutes of council meetings in provisional and official forms for the following League of Nations Council Sessions:
71st Extraordinary Session [14] March 1933
78th Session 18 January 1934
86th Session 24 May 1935
89th Session 23 September 1935
90th Session 22 January 1936
92nd Session 4 July 1936
93rd Session 25 September 1936
94th Session 5 October 1936
c. 150pp
- 61** 10 November 1933;
12 January 1935-
25 September 1936 Reports by the High Commissioner of the League of Nations at Danzig, Seán Lester, communicated to the Council of the League of Nations. Each report outlines in detail the situation in Danzig and reproduces some official correspondence between Lester and political figures in Danzig. Longer annual reports giving detailed overview of political, financial and economic concerns of the Free City are also included.
c. 200pp
- 62** 1933-4; 1936 Lists of delegates and members of delegations for the following sessions of the Assembly of the League of Nations:
14th Ordinary Session 1933
15th Ordinary Session 1934
17th Ordinary Session 1936
54pp

- 63** 5 August 1935 Report of the Committee appointed to study the constitution and practice of committees of the League of Nations.
6pp
- 64** 4 December 1935 Serial publication of the Permanent Court of Justice Series A/B. Judgements, orders and advisory opinions. Fascicule No. 65. Consists of certain legislative decrees and the constitution of the Free City of Danzig.
73pp
- 65** 30 September;
6 October 1936 Two issues of the League of Nations Journal of Assemblies.

No 9 Journal of the 17th Session of the Assembly (30 September 1936)
No 14 Journal of the 17th Session of the Assembly (6 October 1936)
28pp
- 66** 1937-9;
1945-6 League Staff
File containing lists of staff of the League of Nations particularly in the Secretariat. Also contains booklets such as 'Staff Regulations' outlining staffing policies.
c. 200pp
- 67** March 1937 Report for the Information Section of the League of Nations concerning the new buildings erected in 1926 for the Permanent Secretariat comprising of rooms and offices. Reviews the international tender competition and also reveals that in the foundation stone a leaden box was placed containing a copy of the covenant and specimen coins from all member-states of the League, as well as a parchment in 32 languages giving the date of the ceremony, the nature of the building and the names of all members. Report also discusses the cost of the buildings, and includes vivid descriptions of the Secretariat, the Council building, the Council Chamber, the Council drawing room; Delegations' drawing room; committee rooms and wings; the Court of Honour; the Assembly building; the Library and finally, a list of statistics such as the total number of radiators (1500) and the combined length of piping (17,000 metres).
12pp

- 68** 7 August 1937-
22 February 1938 The Application of the Principles of the Covenant
File containing reports made by the committee studying the application of the principles of the covenant of the League of Nations. Reports deal with topics such as participation of all states in the League of Nations; collaboration between the League of Nations and non-member states; co-ordination of covenants; regional or continental organisation of the League of Nations; Articles 10 and 11 of the Covenant; general obligations of Article 16 of the Covenant; regional pacts of mutual assistance; the question of the universality of the League; internal organisation of the League; the pacific settlement of international disputes, Article 19 of the Covenant; separation of the Covenant of the League from the treaties of peace.
c. 475pp
- 69** 28 May 1937 League of Nations Official Journal, Special Supplement No 165, containing appeal by the Spanish Government in the form of a 'White Book' outlining their grievances at 'the existence of an Italian army of occupation fighting against the legitimate government of Spain.'
140pp
- 70** 16 July 1937 League of Nations Official Journal Special Supplement No 179, containing a communication from the Government of the United States of America with regard to the international situation. Statement attributed to Cordell Hull, U. S. Secretary of State, and also contains comments from various governments in reaction to the statement.
34pp
- 71** 23 September 1937 League of Nations Official Document No C.409.M.273.1937.VII entitled 'The Nyon Arrangement and the agreement supplementary to the Nyon Arrangement,' being a communication from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of France, and the President of the Mediterranean Conference of Nyon (concerning the sinking of merchant ships).
15pp

- 77 8-18 April 1946 Twenty-first Assembly of the League of Nations
 Documents relating to the 21st Assembly including the transcript of the address by the Chairman of the Supervisory Committee; provisional record of the 6th plenary meeting; provisional record of the 7th plenary meeting; provisional minutes of the 2nd meeting of the Second Committee; provisional record of the 2nd plenary committee containing the report of the Acting Secretary-General (Lester) on the work of the League during the war.
 147pp
- 78 9-17 April 1946 Text of the debates at the plenary meetings of the 21st Ordinary Session of the Assembly.
 140pp
- 79 15 November 1946 List of 'outstanding points referred to in the general debate' during the wind-up of the League of Nations. Topics covered include confirmation of technical activities during the war; reasons for failure of the League and conditions of success for an international organisation; balance of League work; mandates; comparison between the League and the U. N. O.; dissolution; Switzerland as seat of the League and its buildings; position of non-U. N. O. members; Austrian membership; dissolution of the Permanent Court of International Justice; assumption by U. N. O. of certain functions, powers and activities of the League; and loans under League auspices.
 6pp
- 80 31 July 1947 Final report by the Board of Liquidation of the League of Nations.
 84pp

VI Correspondence (1931–46)

- 81 1931;
 1933-9 Dissociated League of Nations correspondence mainly between Lester and J. Avenol, Secretary-General. Also includes assorted correspondence with others connected with the Secretariat, as well as some diary extracts and reports.
 c. 100pp

- 82** 6 September 1933- Correspondence with various members of
8 August 1936 the Irish Free State government such as
Joseph Walshe, Secretary of the
Department of External Affairs; Éamon de Valera, Taoiseach; Sheila
Murphy, Department of External Affairs; and the Revenue
Commissioners. Most letters concern Lester's income tax
arrangements. Also includes a letter from Edward J. Phelan,
International Labour Organisation concerning same.
c. 25pp
- 83** 10 October 1933- Letters from international diplomats
15 January 1934; including A. Costa du Rels, Bolivia;
17 February- Ferdinand Lathorp Mayer, U. S.; Garcia
4 April 1936 Calderón, Peru; and Lord Cranborne,
London.
5pp
- 84** 22 November 1933- Personal correspondence
6 August 1936 Letter from S. Dunnin-Markievicz, step-
son of Countess Constance Markievicz;
Richard Hayes, National Library of Ireland; Gerald O'Sullivan,
Switzerland; Thomas [Hogan], London; W. T. Kiernan, High
Commissioner for the Irish Free State in London; Georg Lester,
Austria; Ferdinand Lathorp Mayer, Embassy of the United States of
America at Berlin; Carl Budding, Berlin; Robert C. Kennedy, New
York; Edmund Curtis, Trinity College Dublin; Wallace R. Decel, Berlin
bureau of *The Chicago Daily News*; and Leslie W. [Cann..?], London.
15pp
- 85** 10 August - Fishing
29 October 1934; Letters concerning salmon fishing in
16 October 1935 Sweden. Mainly letters from the
Secretary of the Swedish Consulate to
Lester concerning a visit to Sweden to fish with Commander C. E.
Mahlen. Includes letters to Mahlen from other Swedish persons
concerning availability of boarding-houses and suitability of the area
for salmon fishing.
10pp
- 86** 30 September 1936- Appointment to the League of Nations
17 April 1946 Correspondence with J. Avenol,
Secretary-General of the League of
Nations (until 1940) and C. J. Hambro, President of the Assembly and
of the Supervisory Commission, League of Nations, concerning
Lester's appointment to the role of Deputy Secretary-General in 1936

and Acting Secretary-General in 1940, and the decision in 1946 to retrospectively appoint Lester as Secretary-General (1940-6).

35pp

- 87 14 October 1937 Letter from Lester to Gerald Griffin, 42 Ashburnham Mansions, Chelsea, London SW10. Recounts his career from the time he became a journalist at the age of 20 to his present post as Acting Secretary-General of the League of Nations. Concludes: 'I had rather been hoping to return to my own small service; I am not today and never have been at all ambitious and I don't believe I have ever looked for any post which has come to me. My only ambition is a small house by a good trout river in Connemara, books and some good company with a garden.'
- 5pp
- 88 September 1943- Irish Neutrality
September 1944 File containing memoranda, correspondence and press cuttings concerning Irish neutrality or non-belligerency in W. W. II.
- c. 65pp
- 89 November 1945- Woodrow Wilson Award
February 1946 Correspondence, press cuttings, speeches and notes concerning the conferring upon Lester of the Woodrow Wilson Award for his work keeping the League of Nations working during the Second World War. Lester's award was conferred *in absentia*.
Includes: Transcript of part of the ceremony presenting the award to Henry Stimson, former U. S. Secretary of War and *in absentia* to Lester on 28 December 1945. Also includes letters and telegrams of congratulation.
Includes: Extract from diary in which Lester recounts the informal presentation of the plaque to him by Arthur Sweetzer who brought it from the U. S. to London. The presentation took place in the Café Royal in London with a small group of ex-League officials. Lists citation on plaque as 'To Seán Lester, Acting Secretary-General of the League of Nations who upheld steadfastly throughout World War II the ideals, tradition and mechanism of international cooperation for peace.' (7 February 1946)
- 63pp

C SPEECHES (1933–53)

- 90** 16 August 1933 Transcript of a talk delivered by Lester at the Geneva Institute of International Relations entitled 'The Far East dispute from the point of view of the small nations'. Lester was Permanent Delegate of the Irish Free State at the time. Also includes programme of other speakers as well as drafts of the speech and research notes made by Lester. Also known as the Sino-Japanese dispute concerning the disputed area of Manchuria/Manchuko.
c.50pp
- 91** 2 September 1933 Notes and prompt cards of a talk delivered by Lester entitled 'Small States and the League'.
37pp
- 92** 9 September 1933 Notes and prompt cards of a talk delivered by Seán Lester entitled 'Anglo-Irish Relations' to the British Universities League of Nations Society in Geneva.
15pp
- 93** 1934 Prompt cards of a lecture delivered by Lester to the Scottish Club, Geneva.
6pp
- 94** 10 January 1934 Transcript and prompt cards of a lecture delivered by Lester on the occasion of a farewell dinner to himself and his wife prior to their departure to Danzig.
16pp
- 95** 13 February 1946 Draft broadcast entitled 'Mutual' to the U. S.A.
12pp
- 96** 1947 Transcript of an address by Sir Robert Tate, Trinity College Dublin, on the occasion of the conferring of the degree of Doctor of Laws upon Seán Lester.
1p

- 97** 23 January 1949 Prompt cards for an address given by Lester about Danzig in Arklow, Co. Wicklow. 8 cards
- 98** 17 March 1953 Three versions of an unfinished St Patrick's Day address to the Manchester Society. 35pp

D RETIREMENT (1948–58)

- 99** 24 April- 1948
6 November 1948 Correspondence with Alfred O'Rahilly, President of University College Cork; Alex A. McCarthy, Registrar, National University of Ireland; Carl Hambro, Norway; A. Pelt, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations; Edward Phelan, International Labour Organisation; Trygve Lie, Secretary-General of the United Nations; R. J. P. Mortished, Dublin; and R. M. Sweetman, Glendalough, Co. Wicklow. Topics include: conferring of honorary degree of Doctor of Laws upon Lester by the National University of Ireland; an invitation by Trygve Lie, to be the U. N. representative in India to deal with the India-Pakistan question and Lester's subsequent refusal. 28pp
- 100** June 1948 Correspondence concerning the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws conferred upon Lester by the National University of Ireland. 8pp
- 101** 7 January- 1949
24 December 1949 Press cuttings and correspondence with Trygve Lie, Secretary-General of the United Nations; W. Moderow, Director of the U. N. office at Geneva, representing the Secretary-General; Arthur Sweetzer, the Washington World Affairs Centre; Prebenson, the Norwegian ambassador in Dublin; J. J. O'Farrell, secretary of *The Citizen*, Freeman Publications, Dublin; Cyril Nicholson, Belfast; Edward Phelan, Geneva; Martin Hill,

New York; and R. J. P. Mortished, Dublin. Topics include the transfer of the League of Nations Library endowment fund (gift by John Rockefeller) to the U. N.; invitation by the Norwegian and Swiss Conciliation Commission and Lester's acceptance of the role; and partition in Northern Ireland.

29pp

- 102** 24 January 1955 Letter from Carl Hambro, Norway, former President of the League of Nations Supervisory Commission, speaking of recent illness, family life and his plans for writing a book with the title *The Last Days of the League* with which he will need help from Lester.

2pp

- 103** 1951; 1958 *The Secretary-General of the League of Nations* by F. M. Schwebel
Two letters concerning above book. First from Schwebel to Lester received on 29 August 1951, asking whether Lester had anything to say about the controversial circumstances of Joseph Avenol's resignation. Schwebel gives Lester until 1 September to send him an answer, to which Lester refuses, as it is such a short space of time. Second letter from Lester to Christophe Gorski concerning Avenol and Schwebel's endorsement of Avenol's point of view. Lester states that as a result he will have to put on record 'what I know of his views and actions when Europe seemed to have definitely got a master in Hitler and incidentally compelled me to undertake the most unpleasant task in my life.'

23pp

E PRESS CUTTINGS AND PUBLICATIONS (1912–59)

<i>Series description</i> (P203/105-109)	1912-46	Files of press cuttings on various topics and issues, but mostly concerned with the League of Nations and the Free City of Danzig.	
105	1912-36		c.275pp
106	February - July 1936		c.270pp
107	July- December 1936		c. 190pp
108	1937-45		c. 190pp
109	1946		c. 240pp
<i>Series description</i> (P203/110-112)	April 1929- January 1939	Three volumes of press cuttings concerning the life and career of Seán Lester and the political landscape in which he worked.	
110	April 1929- November 1935		c.100pp
111	December 1935- July 1936		c. 180pp
112	July 1936- January 1939		c. 120pp

- 113** 1929 Book entitled *The Port of Danzig* elaborated by The Board for the Port and Waterways of Danzig. Published by *The Polish Economist*, Warsaw. Contains an overview of the strategic importance of the Port of Danzig. Includes illustrations and colour map of the hinterland of the Port of Danzig.
34pp
map: 53.5cm x 57.5cm
- 114** c. 1930 Booklet entitled 'Nach Zoppot' advertising the seaside resort of Zoppot near Danzig. With illustrations and photographs. In German.
24pp
- 115** c. 1930 Booklet entitled 'Die Zoppoter Waldoper' printed in Berlin. Contains photographic illustrations of outdoor performances of operas with supporting text in German.
63pp
- 116** 19 January 1934 Front page of *Journal des Nations*, a newspaper printed in French in Geneva. Reports on the situation in the Free City of Danzig.
1 item
- 117** February - November 1934;
January - August 1936 Cuttings from the Danzig newspapers *Der Danziger Vorposten*, and *Danziger Volk-Zeitung*. In German.
29pp
- 118** 24 April 1935 Article from *The Christian Science Monitor* entitled 'Ruler of "Ruritania"- a peaceable son of stormy Ireland is Sean Lester, High Commissioner of Stormy Danzig, which he hopes to keep peaceable despite vexatious frontier disputes' by Peter Lyre.
1 item

- 119** 27 January 1937 Article from *Journal des Nations* concerning a League of Nations Council Session which dealt mainly with the Free City of Danzig.
1 item
- 120** 28 January 1937 Partial front page of *Frankfurter Zeitung* containing article about Danzig. In German and in Gothic typeface.
1 item
- 121** 3 January 1944 *The Times Review of the Year 1943*
8pp
- 122** 1 January 1945 *The Irish Times Review and Annual 1944*
8pp
- 123** January 1945
April 1946 Articles and cuttings from *Journal de Genève*; *Colliers*; *L'Illustré*; *La Tribune de Genève*; and *New York Herald Tribune* concerning the winding up of the League of Nations.
8 items
- 124** 7 May 1945 Front page of *San Francisco Examiner* with headline 'It's official: War is over in Europe!'
1 item
- 125** July 1959 Article by A. W. Cotton for *Focus* magazine, being a tribute to the life of Seán Lester.
2pp

F MAPS, PLANS AND DRAWINGS**I Danzig (1935–6)**

- 126** c. 1935 Postcard with colour map of Government district of West Prussia showing location of the Free City of Danzig.
1 item
- 127** c. 1935 Postcard with colour map of the province of West Prussia.
1 item
- 128** c. 1935 Colour map showing Danzig's position between Poland and Germany.
21cm x 29.5cm
- 129** 11 July 1936 Page from *Illustrated London News* entitled 'The Scene of Disquieting Incidents: Danzig discussed at Geneva. Illustration is of a 3-D view of the Port of Danzig and its peninsula drawn by D. MacPherson. Caption reads: 'The League-controlled Free City of Danzig - the subject of new Nazi agitation for its return to Germany: a view looking southwards along the Polish "Corridor"'.
36.5cm x 25.25cm

II World War II (1941–3)

- 130** 29 November 1941 Map entitled 'The Battle of Tanks over Desert Wastes: a sketch map from Sollum to Tripoli of the Libyan Terrain.' Legend supplied for railways, motor roads, 2nd class roads, caravan routes, aerodromes, forest and ridges. Accompanying supporting text. Drawn by Captain Bryan de Grineau.
32cm x 48cm
- 131** 10 December 1941 Map of the Pacific Ocean with Australasia, the Far East and Russia bordering it to the east and the Americas bordering it to the west. Legend supplied for territories of the U. S. A.,

Britain, Japan, Holland, China, Russia and Manchuko. Scale of 1cm: 500km.

27cm x 41cm

- 132** 13 December 1941 Map entitled 'Japan's War against the Empire and the U. S. A.: a map of the Pacific showing various territorial possessions.' Subtitled 'The War in the Pacific: a map indicating British, American and Japanese Possessions'. Also gives the date line and synchronising of times from Sunday (east) to Monday (west). Scale of 8cm: 1000 statute miles. Drawn by National Geographic Society, Washington DC and reproduced by *The Illustrated London News*.
29.5cm x 48.8cm
- 133** 1942 Colour map entitled 'Les positions militaires occupées par les puissances de l'Axe et leurs possibilités au Caucase, en Méditerranée orientale et dans les régions avoisinantes.' Shows Russia to the North, Saudi Arabia to the south, Bulgaria/Greece/Mediterranean Sea/Libya to the west and Turkmenistan/Iran/Oman to the east. Scale of 1: 9,200,000.
44cm x 34.5cm
- 134** 1943 Map entitled 'La Guerre en Russie au début de 1943'. Legend: red line represents the Russian front in November 1942 from Moscow through Stalingrad and down to the border of Georgia. Dotted red lines show advances made on this front from beginning of 1943. Accompanying article in French. Scale of 2cm: 100km.
38cm x 20.5cm
- 135** 1943 Colour map entitled 'Situation du front de Russie au début de février 1943.' Legend: red arrows represent Russian offensive before 1 February 1943; black arrows represent the Russian offensive before 8 February 1943. Area shown on map stretches from Leningrad to the Black Sea longitudinally and from Kiev to Stalingrad latitudinally. Accompanying article in French. Scale of 2inches: 200km.
48cm x 34cm
- 136** 6 February 1943 Map entitled 'The Battleground which will seal the fate of North America and gain full control of the Mediterranean'. Shows the Gulf of Tunis and the Gulf of Hammamet and land from Ras

Zebib in the north to Haegla in the south, and from Dzara in the east to Kourba in the west. Includes small insert map of the Tripolitania-Tunisia frontier and Mareth line. Drawn by G. H. Davis. Scale of 3.5cm: 10 miles.

27.5cm x 49cm

- 137** 1943 Colour map of the Mediterranean Sea and the North African coast from Bône in North Tunisia to Tripoli. Extensive legend provided showing railway tracks, modern routes, aqueducts, oases, aerodromes, offensives etc. Scale of 10cm: 150km.

44.5cm x 35cm

III League of Nations Buildings (1945)

- 138** 12 October 1945 Plan of the location of buildings and properties of the League of Nations, ('Plan de la situation des bâtiments et des propriétés de la S. D. N.'). Legend: red diagonal lines highlight buildings or properties of the League of Nations between Lac Lemman to the north to Petit Morillon to the south; and from Chemin de l'Imperatrice to the west and Route de Frenay/Avenue de France to the east. Scale of 1: 4000.

40cm x 39.5cm

- 139** 29 October 1945 Outline plan of the Palais de la Société de Nations (Palace of the League of Nations) showing the Secretariat, the Council, the Commissions, the Assembly and the Library. Scale of 1½ inches: 100m

20cm x 33cm

G PHOTOGRAPHS

I League of Nations Council Meetings and Conferences (1929–32)

- 140** October 1929 B/w postcard photograph of 13th session of the International Labour Conference.

9cm x 13cm

- 141** October 1931 B/w photograph of a special council meeting regarding the Japanese-Chinese dispute about Manchuria/Manchuko. Delegates seated around a horseshoe shaped table (l-r): Dr Sao Ke Alfred Sye, Chinese Minister at London; José Matos, Guatemalan Minister at Paris; Colban, Norwegian Minister at Paris; [Bogolioub Yevtitch], Yugoslavian Assistant Foreign Minister; Gerhard von Mutius, Germany; Grondi, Italian Foreign Minister; Aristide Briand, French Foreign Minister; Salvador Madriaga, Spanish Ambassador to U. S. A., acting president; Sir Eric Drummond, Secretary-General of the League of Nations; Lord Reading, UK Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs; Hiroshi Yoshikawa, Japanese Ambassador at Paris; Franciszek Sokal, Polish Minister to the League of Nations; [Baneto], Peru; Seán Lester; and Narciso Garay, Panama. Also includes accompanying handwritten seating plan.
- 17.5cm x 23cm
- 142** c. 1932 B/w photograph of delegates and interpreters seated around a horse-shoe shaped table.
- 17cm x 23cm
- 143** 1932 B/w photograph of the opening of the 68th session of the Council of the League of Nations with president Éamon de Valera in the chair. Delegates seated around a horseshoe shaped table (l – r): Weiching William Yen, China; José Matos, Guatemala; Bogolioub Yevtitch, Yugoslavia; Salvador de Madriaga y Rojo, Spain; Konstantin von Neurath, Germany; Baron Pompeo Aloisi, Italy; Paul Boncour, France; Éamon de Valera, Ireland; Sir Eric Drummond, Great Britain; Sir J. Simon, Great Britian; Harukazu Nagaoka, Japan; August Zaleski, Poland; Ventura Garcia Calderon, Peru; Birger Brââdland, Norway and Narciso Garay, Panama.
- 17cm x 23.5cm
- 144** 1932 B/w photograph of a packed assembly at the World Disarmament Conference. Lester has listed all delegates on back of photograph. View from speakers' platform.
- 23cm x 29cm
- 145** c. 1932 B/w postcard photograph of delegates at the International Disarmament Conference.
- 9cm x 14cm

II Final Sessions of the League of Nations (1945–7)

- 146** 29 August 1945 B/w photograph of (l – r) Sir Cecil Kisch (Great Britain); President C. J. Hambro (Norway); and Seán Lester, sitting around a table of documents at the Parliament House, Oslo, Norway. Seán Lester smoking pipe.
18cm x 24cm
- 147** c. 1946 B/w photograph of Hume Wrong, Canada (left) speaking to Philip Noel Barker (Great Britain) and Eugene Henri René Vigier (France) as they look at a document in Noel Barker's hand. Taken by Max Kettle, Geneva.
23cm x 17cm
- 148** 1946 B/w photograph of a head and shoulder profile portrait of Seán Lester.
14.5cm x 10.5cm
- 149** April 1946 B/w postcard photograph of informal group portrait. Left to right Gerald A. Abraham (UK), Max Petitpierre (Switzerland); C. J. Hambro (Norway); Paul Ruegger (Switzerland); Seán Lester; [?] Olwan; and [?] Blenck.
9cm x 14cm
- 150** April 1946 B/w postcard photograph of Seán Lester (left) in conversation with Mr. Kofecki of Czechoslovakia.
10.5cm x 14.5cm
- 151** April 1946 B/w postcard photograph of Seán Lester (right) in conversation with a Colombian delegate at the 21st Session of the League of Nations.
10.5cm x 14.5cm

- 152** 1946 B/w postcard photograph of Seán Lester (centre left) walking through Salle des pas Perdus at the [Palais des Nations, Geneva], with Paul Ruegger, substitute delegate from Switzerland.
9cm x 14cm
- 153** 1946 B/w postcard photograph of Seán Lester (left) in conversation with Branko Lukac, Yugoslavia.
10.5cm x 14.5cm
- 154** 1946 B/w postcard photograph of Seán Lester (left) in conversation with C. J. Hambro, Norway (centre), and William Boberg, Denmark (right) at Geneva.
13cm x 18cm
- 155** 1946 B/w photograph of the speakers platform in the League of Nations Assembly Hall. Seán Lester seated at far left of picture with C. J. Hambro beside him. Viscount Cecil (standing) is at right of picture.
13cm x 18cm
- 156** c. 1946 B/w photograph of perhaps the final session of the League of Nations at Geneva. Caption reads 'Opening Speech'. Left to right: Seán Lester, President C. J. Hambro (standing); Gerald Abraham, and Mademoiselle Nonin.
13cm x 18cm
- 157** c. 1946 B/w photograph of perhaps the final session of the League of Nations at Geneva. Back row (l-r): Seán Lester, C. J. Hambro, Norway and Gerald Abraham, UK. Front row (l-r): Mr Johnston, International Labour Organisation; two interpreters; Max Petitpierre, Switzerland (standing); Viscount Cecil, UK; Seymour Jacklin, South Africa, Treasurer of the League; and Léon Emile Henneberger, Switzerland.
13cm x 18cm

- 158** April 1946 B/w photograph of League of Nations Assembly at Geneva. Speakers' platform in middle distance. C. J. Hambro (standing), Seán Lester (one to the left of Hambro). Taken by F. H. Julien, Geneva.
17.5cm x 23cm
- 159** April 1946 B/w photograph of the League of Nations Assembly taken from a view to the right of the speakers' platform. Shows delegates seated in rows in front of the platform and other parties seated in the galleries. Taken by F. H. Julien, Geneva.
17.5cmx 23cm
- 160** 18 April 1946 B/w photograph of Seán Lester (centre left) at a luncheon given by 'select' officials and former officials of the 1940–46 Secretariat at Buffet de la Gare, [Geneva].
7cm x 10.5cm
- 161** July 1947 B/w photograph of [Supervisory Commission] sitting around a table. C. J. Hambro 4th from right, Sir Cecil Kisch, 5th from right.
17.5cm x 23.5cm
- 162** 30 July 1947 B/w photograph with paint effect of a seated formal portrait of Lester. Taken by Boesch of Geneva.
each 21cm x 16.5cm

III Architectural Views of the League of Nations Buildings

(a) Interior (1946)

- 163** 1946 B/w photograph of an empty council room at the Secretariat, League of Nations buildings, Geneva. Council room decorated with large wall and ceiling murals by Catalan artist José

Maria Sert depicting the progress of humankind through health, technology, freedom and peace. Caption: 'General view of the Council Room.'

18cm x 24cm

- 164** 1946 B/w photograph of the interior of an empty Salon des Délégations, League of Nations buildings, Geneva. Taken by Boesch of Geneva.
18cm x 24cm
- 165** 1946 B/w photograph of an interior view of the Assembly (empty) as seen from the gallery facing the stage. By Boesch of Geneva.
23cm x 28.5cm
- 166** 1946 B/w photograph of an interior view of the Assembly Hall (empty) as seen from the speakers' podium. By Boesch of Geneva.
23cm x 29cm
- 167** c. 1945 Series of 12 postcard photographs of architectural details of the Salle du Conseil, League of Nations, Geneva. Picture by J. M. Sert. Series VII.
each 10.5cm x 15cm

(b) Exterior (1946)

- 168** 1946 B/w aerial photograph of the League of Nations building complex in Geneva.
24cm x 18cm
- 169** 1946 B/w photograph of the League of Nations building complex as seen from a distance. Parklands and roads in foreground, League of Nations buildings in the countryside in the middle distance. City of Geneva on the horizon with [mountains?] in far background.
13cm x 18cm

- 170** 1946 B/w photograph of an exterior view of [the courtyard] of the Secretariat, League of Nations buildings, Geneva. Shows cars parked underneath a covered shelter as well as cars parked in the open air around a landscaped area.
18cm x 24cm
- 171** 1946 B/w photograph of an exterior view of the right wing of the Palais des Nations, League of Nations buildings, Geneva. Trees in foreground. Taken by Boesch of Geneva.
18cm x 24cm
- 172** 1946 B/w photograph of an exterior view of the [Palais des Nations], League of Nations buildings, Geneva. Trees in foreground, Taken by Boesch of Geneva.
18cm x 24cm
- 173** 1946 B/w photograph of an exterior view of the Secretariat building, League of Nations, Geneva. Taken by J. Cadoux, Geneva.
17cm x 23.5cm
- 174** 1946 B/w photograph of the exterior of the Secretariat, League of Nations buildings, Geneva, as seen from surrounding parkland. Tree branch in foreground.
18cm x 24cm
- 175** 1946 B/w photograph of the exterior of the Secretariat, League of Nations buildings, Geneva, as viewed from the courtyard.
16.5cm x 22.5cm

- 176** 1946 B/w photograph of the exterior of the [Palais des Nations], Geneva. By Paul Bonzon Studio, Geneva.
15cm x 22.5cm
- 177** 1946 B/w photograph of a close-up of an exterior architectural feature at the Secretariat buildings, League of Nations buildings.
18cm x 24cm
- 178** 1946 B/w mounted photograph of the entrance to the Secretariat, League of Nations buildings. Caption: 'Société des Nations - Entrée du Secretariat.'
22cm x 28cm
- 179** 1946 B/w mounted photograph of the steps leading to the entrance to the Palais des Nations. Caption: 'Société des nations - Façade et terrasses (7)'
22cm x 28cm
- 180** 1946 B/w mounted photograph of the 'Court of Honour' at the Palais des nations, League of Nations buildings, Geneva. Caption: 'Société des Nations - cour d'honneur (4)'.
22cm x 28cm
- 181** 1946 B/w mounted photograph of an aerial view of the League of Nations buildings from the west. Caption: 'Société des Nations - prise d'avion (8)'.
28cm x 22cm

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|------------|------|---|
| 182 | 1946 | B/w mounted photograph of entrance to the Assembly building. Caption 'Entrance to Assembly building - LoN'
22cm x 28cm |
| 183 | 1946 | B/w mounted artist's impression of the exterior of the Palais des Nations with snow in foreground. Caption: 'Snow effect - LoN'.
22cm x 28cm |
| 184 | 1946 | B/w mounted artist's impression of the exterior of the Palais des Nations in Winter. Caption: 'Société des Nation - Hiver (5)'.
22cm x 28cm |