

THE PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA

The Right Honourable Lester Bowles Pearson, P.C., O.B.E., M.A., was born in Toronto, Ontario, on April 23, 1897. After receiving the degree of Bachelor of Arts from Victoria College, University of Toronto, in 1919, Mr. Pearson pursued a programme of graduate study at Oxford University, receiving B.A. and M.A. degrees from St. John's College. Subsequently, he became a member of the Department of History at the University of Toronto for a period of two years.

In 1928, Mr. Pearson joined the Department of External Affairs, and, as a career officer of its Foreign Service, served in Ottawa, London and Washington, becoming Canadian Ambassador to the United States in 1945. He subsequently returned to Ottawa as Undersecretary of State for External Affairs and, in 1948, joined the Liberal Cabinet of Prime Minister Mackenzie King in the capacity of Secretary of State for External Affairs. He held this portfolio until 1957. Mr. Pearson has represented the riding of Algoma East (Ontario), in the House of Commons continuously since 1948.

The present Prime Minister is perhaps best known internationally for his achievements at the United Nations. On various occasions, he headed the Canadian delegation to the General Assembly and his voice came to command high respect among the policy-makers of the world organization. He was elected President of the Seventh Session of the General Assembly in 1952-1953. In recognition of his efforts as a mediator during the Suez Crisis of 1956, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1957.

Shortly thereafter, Mr. Pearson was chosen Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada, and became Prime Minister of Canada following the general elections of 1963.

The present Prime Minister is the author of many articles and of two published volumes. The first, which appeared in 1955, is entitled "Democracy in World Politics". The second, "Diplomacy in the Nuclear Age", was published in 1959. Mr. Pearson is married and has two children.