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McDOUGALL ACCEPTS LESTER B. PEARSON NOBEL PEACE PRIZE MEDAL

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, today accepted the Lester B. Pearson Nobel Peace Prize Medal and Citation on behalf of External Affairs and International Trade Canada, from Mr. Pearson's son, Geoffrey, in a ceremony in Ottawa.

"It is a great honour to receive the Nobel Peace Prize Medal from the family of Lester B. Pearson," said Mrs. McDougall. "Its presence in the Department will serve as a touchstone for all Canadians and members of the world community who have come to associate Canada with those high ideals of international conduct first championed by Mr. Pearson."

The Medal, the Citation and a bronze casting of an artist's maquette of the statue of Lester Pearson on Parliament Hill will be on permanent display in the Main Lobby of the Department.

Lester Pearson received the Nobel Peace Prize on December 11, 1957, in Oslo, Norway. He was awarded the Prize for his proposal to use a peacekeeping force to resolve the Suez crisis in 1956 and his efforts to ensure its acceptance and successful implementation.

"Mr. Pearson masterminded the creation of the United Nations' first successful peacekeeping operation," said Mrs. McDougall. "That model took hold and the successes of 1956 have been replicated in some 40 UN peacekeeping operations since then."

The Nobel Prize for Peace is one of five prizes awarded annually from a fund established by the will of Alfred Bernhard Nobel, a Swedish industrialist. (A sixth prize, for economic science, was set up by the Bank of Sweden in 1968.) The Prize for Peace is presented in Oslo to a recipient chosen by the Norwegian Nobel Committee, which is appointed by the Norwegian Parliament. The recipient is given a gold medal, a citation and a sum of money (which varies according to the income earned from the fund).

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