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## RESIGNATION OF PRIME MINISTER PEARSON

Prime Minister L.B. Pearson, in a letter dated December 14, to the President of the Liberal Federation of Canada, announced his decision to resign from the leadership of the Liberal Party as soon as a successor could be chosen at a national convention.

The Prime Minister pointed out that he had been in public service for 40 years, head of the Liberal Party for ten years and Prime Minister for nearly five years. He expressed his gratitude for the loyal support of the Liberal Party and for the opportunity of serving his country through the Party.

Mr. Pearson was born in April 1897 at Newtonbrook, Ontario and graduated from the University of Toronto in 1919 with a B.A. degree with honours in history. He continued his historical studies on a Massey Foundation fellowship at St. John's College, Oxford. In 1925, he received an M.A. degree from Oxford.

During the First World War Mr. Pearson served overseas as a private in the Canadian Army Medical Corps, a lieutenant in the Canadian Infantry and a flying officer in the Royal Flying Corps.

He joined the Department of External Affairs in 1928 as First Secretary. In 1931 he was appointed Secretary of the Royal Commission on Wheat Futures. He served in 1934 as Secretary to the Royal Commission Investigating Price Spreads and Mass Buying. In 1935 he was appointed to the office of the High Commissioner for Canada in London. In 1941 he became Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs. He was made Minister Counsellor at the Canadian Legation in Washington in 1942 and, in July 1944, was appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the United States. In January 1945 he became Canadian Ambassador to the United States. In September 1946 he became Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs.

In September 1948, Mr. Pearson joined the Cabinet as Secretary of State for External Affairs. He was elected to the House of Commons in October of the same year.

## NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER

As Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Pearson headed Canadian delegations to the third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh sessions of the UN General Assembly and was elected President of the seventh session (1952-53). He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in December 1957.

In April 1963, Mr. Pearson was sworn in as Prime Minister of Canada.

In the course of his career, Mr. Pearson has been a member of the Canadian delegations to the meetings of the League of Nations, the San Francisco Conference in 1945 that drew up the Charter of the United Nations, and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. He served as chairman of the Supplies Committee of the UN Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. In April 1948, he was Canadian representative at the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty in Washington, D.C. In 1949 he represented the Prime Minister at the meeting of Commonwealth prime ministers in London. He was chairman of the Canadian delegation to the Commonwealth meeting on foreign affairs in Colombo in 1950, and chairman of the Canadian delegation to the Japanese Peace Treaty Conference in San Francisco in September 1951. The same month, he became Chairman of the North Atlantic Council (NATO). He represented Canada at the Geneva Conference on Disarmament in April 1954.