



news release

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QUELLET COMMENTS ON THE PASSING OF ARNOLD SMITH

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today expressed sadness at the death of Canadian diplomat and statesman Arnold Smith.

"Arnold Smith was a credit to Canada and our foreign service during a distinguished career that spanned four decades. He did much to advance the ideal of a community of nations. The Commonwealth in particular is indebted to him for his inspired leadership as its first Secretary-General. On behalf of the Government of Canada, I extend heartfelt condolences to his family," said Mr. Ouellet.

Arnold Cantwell Smith attended the University of Toronto before winning a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford University. He joined the Canadian foreign service in 1943, and served in a number of positions in Ottawa and abroad. He was Ambassador to the United Arab Republic from 1958 to 61, and Ambassador to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, 1961 to 63. In 1965, Mr. Smith was chosen Secretary-General of the newly created Commonwealth Secretariat. He served two consecutive five-year terms in this capacity, and was instrumental in making the Commonwealth a leader of international opinion. In his own words, he envisaged the Commonwealth as "an instrument of great potential use in the development of habits of consultation and co-operation that [would] transcend the limits of race, religion and economic level."

In later years, Mr. Smith taught international relations at Carleton University. He was named a Companion of Honour, and was also appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada.

Mr. Smith died in Toronto on February 7 at the age of 79.

- 30 -

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