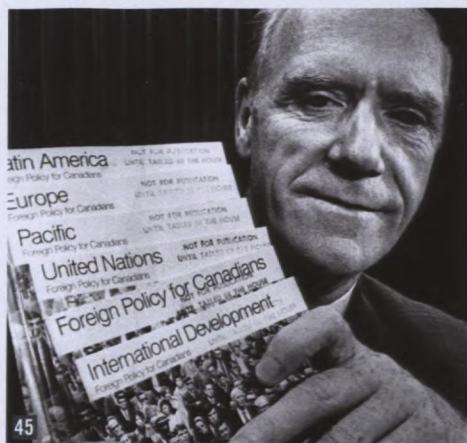


# 1968

# 1984

## “NEW GUYS WITH NEW IDEAS”



“New guys with new ideas”—this was how Prime Minister Trudeau characterized his government. He came to office determined to question the assumptions of the past and take a fresh look at every government activity. He was not only critical of External Affairs, but he also openly mused that diplomacy as a career was outmoded: why were ambassadors necessary in an age of instant communications? Such views sent shock waves through the Department, which had difficulty understanding the enigmatic Trudeau. Over the next few years, the Department’s treasured status as one of the most important and influential departments in government was sharply diminished as Trudeau introduced new policy objectives and new ways of operating.



It came as no surprise that Trudeau rejected Robertson’s recommendations as nothing more than a defence of the status quo. He ordered another, more far-reaching review of foreign policy. This was met with deep scepticism in the Department and hostility from the traditionalist Cadieux. Because of time constraints, the first area studied was defence policy.



Departmental officials were appalled at the views of some Cabinet ministers, who favoured the withdrawal of Canadian troops from Europe and were even willing to consider pulling out of NATO. When it became obvious that maintaining the existing commitment was unacceptable to this element in the government—and to the Prime Minister himself—the Department and its allies fought a rearguard action to limit the damage, resulting in a decision to cut troop strength in Europe by half.

45 The election of Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau in 1968 ushered in a period of reform. In June 1970, Mitchell Sharp, secretary of state for external affairs from 1968 until 1974, displays his department’s first foreign-policy review, entitled *Foreign Policy for Canadians*. (Source: The Canadian Press/Chuck Mitchell)

46 Among the first foreign-policy initiatives taken by Prime Minister Trudeau’s government was official recognition of the People’s Republic of China in 1970. Trudeau, who is pictured here touring the caves at Loyang with Chou En-lai in October 1973, became the first Canadian prime minister to visit China. (Source: CP Photo)

47 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, accompanied by Secretary of State for External Affairs Mitchell Sharp, opens the Department’s new headquarters, the Lester B. Pearson Building, on August 1, 1973. (Source: The Canadian Press/Staff)