

appropriate say for Canada in the Allied war effort and in shaping the postwar world. Canada took a prominent role in creating the United Nations organization.

In 1946, the department regained its own minister for the first time since 1912 when Louis St. Laurent became Secretary of State for External Affairs, before becoming Prime Minister in 1948. Serving under him was Lester B. Pearson—first as Undersecretary and then as Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Both men were committed to responsible and active internationalism, and under their leadership the department continued to grow and Canada assumed a greater role on the international scene.

Canadian diplomats played a prominent role in the creation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the development of foreign aid under the Colombo Plan, and in early UN peacekeeping efforts.

In 1956, Canada helped resolve the Suez Crisis when Pearson proposed that the UN deploy a peacekeeping force. This became the pattern for many UN interventions and inspired Conservative Prime Minister John Diefenbaker to pledge Canada's support for a UN peacekeeping mission in Congo in 1960.

During Quebec's Quiet Revolution of the 1960s, the department worked for a foreign policy that reflected Canada's bilingual character, particularly through closer ties with France and other francophone states.

By 1968, Canada had 93 diplomatic posts abroad, with non-resident accreditation in an additional 41 countries.

### An integrated department

**P**ierre Elliott Trudeau succeeded Pearson as Prime Minister in 1968, with a team that he called "new guys with new ideas." Following an extensive review of foreign policy, the new government gave paramount importance to Canada's national interest, defining the country's foreign policy as "the extension abroad of

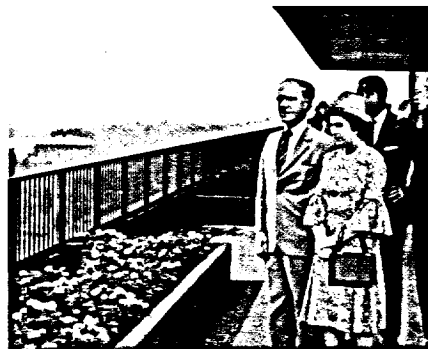
to play a pivotal role in implementing the government's policy agenda. Its expertise was brought to bear in areas as diverse as the establishment of diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, and the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, which added more than one million square miles to Canadian territory.

Beginning in 1969, the government began to work toward integrating its foreign operations abroad. The aim was a single department responsible for foreign policy, aid programs and trade. In January 1982, the Department of External Affairs was amalgamated with the Trade Commissioner Service to form a single foreign and trade ministry, with a new name and a broader mandate.

In 1984, the Progressive Conservative government of Brian Mulroney gave priority to improving Canada's relations with the United States, encouraging the integrated department to place greater emphasis on economic and trade policy. This led to the 1989 Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement and its successor, the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement—now a cornerstone of Canada's prosperity. Canadian negotiators were also active in efforts to transform the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the forerunner of the World Trade Organization.

In 1993, the government changed hands and the department was renamed as the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

Fiscal constraints in the 1990s forced the department to concentrate on its core responsibilities—an effective foreign and trade policy, trade promotion, and consular services. It worked toward limited but important goals: helping Canada's economy through the high-profile series of Team Canada trade missions; advancing the international campaign to ban landmines; and working for the creation of the International Criminal Court. More recently, Canadian diplomats have joined with aid workers, soldiers and police officers in an effort to rebuild war-torn Afghanistan.



Canadian Press/Staff

national policies."

The department adjusted with difficulty to the demands of the new prime minister, and found itself vying for influence with other government departments as well as Trudeau's own foreign policy advisors. Still, it continued

*Greg Donaghy is head of the historical section, Policy Research Division, which is leading efforts to celebrate the department's 100th anniversary.*