

common elsewhere in Ottawa. He also insisted on closer relations with domestic departments. "Incredible as it may seem," Heeney later recalled, "there were some in External Affairs who conceived of the Department as something apart from the rest of the Civil Service, concerned with 'diplomatic' and 'political affairs' outside of Canada, rather than with trade or even economic policies."

After Heeney went to Washington as ambassador in 1952, he was succeeded by two short-term under-secretaries: L. Dana Wilgress, a former ambassador to the U.S.S.R. and high commissioner to Britain, who found he was not suited for the job, and Hume Wrong, who died of a heart attack shortly after assuming office. Pearson then appointed Jules Léger to the post in 1954. In selecting the 41-year-old Léger, Pearson hoped he had "a young and vigorous Under-Secretary, the

first from Quebec, and one who would normally be in the job for a long time, content, I take it, with the prospect of being a 'permanent' Under-Secretary and not a bird of passage to an Embassy."

The Department's success at implementing the government's foreign policy in the mid-1950s—most spectacularly during the Suez Crisis, when Pearson's peacemaking efforts resulted in his winning the Nobel Peace Prize—hid some disturbing trends. Canadians wondered about the growing American influence over Canada, and were alarmed when one of their diplomats, Herbert Norman, leaped to his death in 1957 following U.S. allegations that he was a communist. Many Anglo-Canadians worried too about the receding imperial connection, and they recoiled at St. Laurent's refusal to support Britain during the Suez Crisis. By the spring of 1957, there were signs that change was in the air.



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³⁶ The Department's growth in the late 1940s and 1950s created an influential foreign ministry that punched above its weight, in the words of Lester B. Pearson. In this photo, Pearson holds a press conference during the Suez Crisis of 1956. Pearson was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1957 for his role in resolving the crisis. (Source: Duncan Cameron, Library and Archives Canada, PA-155557)