

The Secretary of State for External Affairs the Honourable Mitchell Sharp announced today details of the ceremony which will take place on August 1, 1973, when Her Majesty the Queen opens the Lester B. Pearson Building.

The Queen will arrive at the new Department of External Affairs headquarters building at 11:30 a.m. and will be met by Mr. Sharp and the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. A. E. Ritchie. On the front steps of the building, presentations will be made to Her Majesty of Mrs. L. B. Pearson and others, including representatives of the Department of Public Works, the building contractor and the architectural firm responsible for the new building.

The Queen intends to pay an oral tribute to the late Right Honourable Lester B. Pearson after which she will declare the building officially open. She will then be shown some of the special areas inside. A representative group of present and past employees of the Department will be presented to Her Majesty during her tour of the building.

Because all areas of the building will not be completed when it is opened on August 1 by the Queen, the Department of External Affairs intends to hold an inaugural event in the summer of 1974 which will include the unveiling of a memorial to Mr. Pearson. The 1974 event will emphasize the role of the Department in the nation's life.