

jostled along a much larger number of players, with interests and convictions much more difficult to reconcile than those then represented in the Official Opposition. Many other facets of the diplomatic trade served him well as a politician. He was a genius at strategy, trained to reconcile principle and expediency, to compromise without compromising. He had learned to recognize quickly tactical errors, to admit to them with a disarming candour and to strike a new course in the midst of manoeuvre. He had acquired extraordinary stamina -- as must all *habitués* of international conferences; so that, after the most harrowing experience, he would bounce back at the office the following morning, fit and fresh for the next battle. He had not become jaded by the apparent, but only apparent, stalemate of so many international negotiations; he believed in the power of ideas, he believed that an impasse could more often be overcome by seasoned imagination than by stubborn obfuscation.

But I am digressing. I make no apology for it, since it is almost impossible to distinguish Lester B. Pearson's accomplishments as Prime Minister from what we owe to him as diplomat and Secretary of State for External Affairs. I know better than most that the foreign policy of a government is a collective endeavour; yet, I can state without hesitation that Lester B. Pearson was the architect of Canada's multilateral diplomacy. His most brilliant insights have unquestionably been those that inserted in a single perspective the destinies of all men living on this planet, which embraced in a single movement the whole international community. How fitting that the mural we shall presently unveil should remind us that:

"Sooner and better than his contemporaries he had come to understand that the world, for all of its diversity was one...that no nation, even the most powerful, could escape a common creaturehood and a common peril."

This global vision was developed quite early in his career. It pervades, for example, the Armstrong Lectures delivered in 1942, in which he stated quite bluntly his conviction that "no country can any longer expect peace and security by basing its policy on isolation or the absence of formal international obligations". The same global vision inspired his leadership of the permanent Canadian delegation at the founding conference of the United Nations in 1945. It led him to leave the relative shelter of officialdom to assume the political leadership of our diplomacy. It fortified him during his tenure as President of the United Nations General Assembly in 1952, and no doubt inspired the leading role he played in the resolution of the 1956 Suez crisis, a role which earned him the Nobel Peace Prize.