

ence chamber in which more than 30 delegates can sit round an oval table, surrounded by supporting staff and aided by four-language translation and such facilities as television coverage. And, finally, from the central foyer, foreign visitors will be escorted to the protocol reception area under the main tower of the building. All this has been contrived for some theatrical effect: the stepped gardens leading up to the bronze entrance doors, the high-ceilinged central hall and the vistas into the surrounding floor spaces and courtyards....

Stratified structure

"The outward appearance of the buildings in the cluster, the strong horizontal layers of window-strips and the pre-cast stone cladding, come simply from the acceptance of a normal arrangement of working office floors, each planned around a service core and lit by continuous windows. The whole composition could be thought of as an enormous stratified sculpture.

"Ottawa has not been blessed with many fine pieces of architecture since the original Gothic Revival composition on Parliament Hill. The new National Arts Centre is perhaps the only other architectural work of first rank, and its design has an obvious relation to the new External Affairs building. They are not only built of the same rugged precast slabs but are alike in being sculptural three-dimensional compositions, not just street architecture or rectangular boxes.

"This is a kind of architecture that takes us back to the grandeur and scale of medieval building, of castles and cathedrals and great stone walls rising like cliffs from the earth, mellowing with the passage of time, with the rhythm of the seasons and the evolving shapes of trees and garden plants....

"There has been criticism of the site chosen for the External Affairs headquarters, standing at the Ontario end of the Macdonald-Cartier Bridge and caught in the network of approach ramps. It has also been said that the traffic generated by a work force of 3,200 people will spoil the rather quiet and dignified character of Sussex Drive and put an unmanageable load on the neighbourhood streets of New Edinburgh and on the arterial roads linked to the bridge. There are obvious difficulties ahead and the External Affairs staff

Facts about the Lester B. Pearson building

Construction of the building began in May 1970 and it was ready for occupancy 36 months later. The cost, exclusive of architects' fees, landscaping and furniture, was \$27.2 million.

The building, standing on a seven-acre site, contains 1,088,973 square feet of floor space and has parking space for 575 cars. It can accommodate about 3,200 people.

The structure is of reinforced concrete tied to the bedrock, with the exterior clad in pre-cast concrete faced with Quebec granite. The main lobby may be viewed as a street, with four towers of different heights representing buildings. The main floor gives access to these blocks.

The building contains no heating or cooling plants. Steam for heating is piped under the Macdonald-Cartier Bridge from the Government Printing Bureau in Hull, and cold water for cooling comes from a plant behind the National Research Council on the opposite side of the street. The climate-control system is designed so that, if necessary, some offices may be heated while others are cooled. Each block has its own ventilating system.

In case of power failure, two auxiliary diesel generators can provide enough power to operate one elevator in each block, maintain communications and the operations centres and provide emergency lighting.

will have to accept the limitations of parking and traffic space.

"The new External Affairs building is one of the very few public-service buildings in the capital that has been sensitively designed to fit a particular complex of departmental functions. In its new headquarters it will be possible for External Affairs to consider not only the department's working convenience and the impression to be made on visiting diplomats; it should also be possible to consider the needs of the ultimate employer, the people of Canada, who come to their capital to find out what goes on here and how Canada looks out upon the rest of the world."

Major foreign licensing agreement

Northern Electric Company has signed its first major foreign licensing agreement, a ten-year contract negotiated with Plessey Telecommunications Limited of England, one of the world's largest telecommunications enterprises.

Terms of the agreement call for Northern to supply manufacturing information on telephone products of its own design. Plessey is granted exclusive manufacturing and sales rights during the contract period for England, South Africa, Australia, Portugal and Brazil. The company has large plants in each of these countries.

Products covered include Northern's latest designed and fully-electronic PBX, the SG-1, which has already met with outstanding success in Canada and the U.S., the CONTEMPRA telephone, the LOGIC 10 key set and a new lightweight headset.

"This is a big breakthrough for Northern," Mr. John G. Lobb of Northern Electric stated. "It is a multi-million dollar package and will lead to similar deals in other parts of Europe and Japan. There is no practical way to export manufactured products into these markets, but the agreement will enable us to sell many components and replacement parts made in our Canadian plants."

Tour memories captured in Stratford

The excitement of the Stratford Festival's tour of Europe last spring is captured in this summer's Festival Exhibition at Stratford's City Hall. Highlight of the display is a reproduction of the opening scene of *King Lear*, complete with portable touring set, props and costumes, as they appeared on the theatre stage.

The exhibit shows the company all through the tour, from the opening engagement in Montreal, to Copenhagen, the first overseas stop, and on through the six cities visited in the Netherlands, Poland and the U.S.S.R. Posters, programs, costumes and properties from both *Lear* and *The Taming of the Shrew* are on display. An added item of interest is the slide presentation of colour photographs taken by members of the company as they travelled throughout Europe.