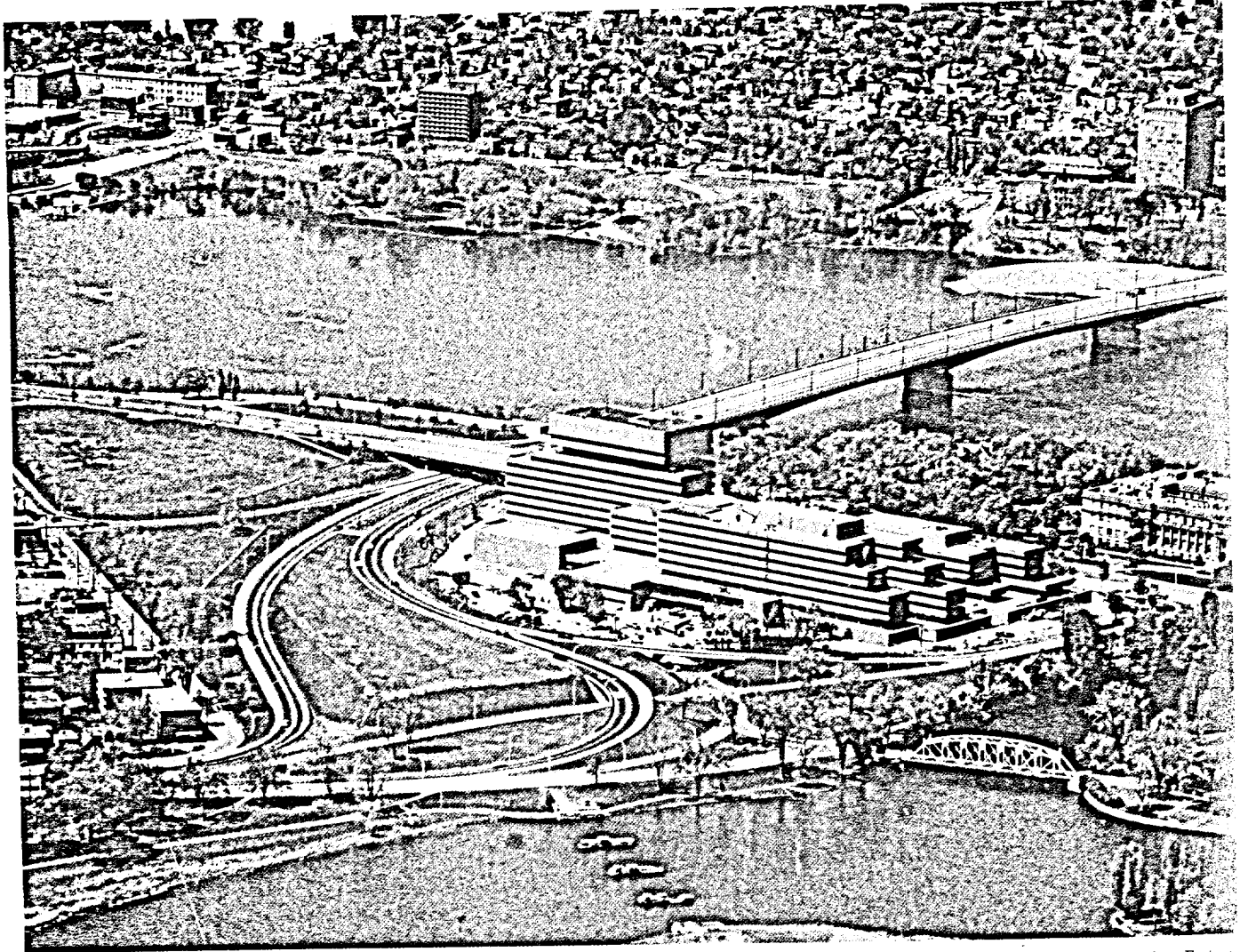


# A fresh architectural face to fit External Affairs' role

By Humphrey Carver



Colin Price Photo Features

## *External Affairs: its own presence and personality*

When the Department of External Affairs moves into its new building on Sussex Drive in Ottawa early in the new year, it will emerge into public view for the first time as an organization with its own presence and personality. Hitherto it has been an element of the Federal Government with its head offices secreted somewhere in the corridors of the East Block, behind the green baize doors to the antechambers of the Prime Minister and the Privy Council. This has preserved the rather elitist image of a department whose personnel have, in fact, been scattered

through many downtown buildings in the Capital. Now all will be brought together in the new headquarters, which becomes the corporate image of the department.

You may not like the style of the building or feel that it properly expresses the department's role, but henceforth everyone who lives in or visits the Capital will know "this is the Department of External Affairs". Architecture is a powerful language; people "read" buildings in the same way as they interpret personalities from the outward appearances of faces and clothes. What kind of building is it?