

reasons. I recall his speech at the Canadian Embassy in Moscow. Canada, he said, was a small country -- lots of geography, but not much history or many people; but it occupied a strategic position in the world, stretching between the Soviet Union and the United States and subject to pressure from both sides. Kaganovich was present and interjected: "As far as the Soviet Union is concerned, friendly pressure." To which Mike replied: "The strongest pressure I know is friendly pressure."

Allow me to quote a few more personal recollections from the testimonial address the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Allan MacEachen, had prepared for this occasion:

"My association with Mr. Pearson began when I entered Parliament in 1953. Cartoonists had already made the bow tie his trade-mark as Secretary of State for External Affairs; and I hope you will not take offence, Mr. Prime Minister, if I recall that he was the first 'flower man' to sit in Parliament. For he was also wont to relieve the staidness of his professional uniform by pinning a rose to his lapel. Mike Pearson was already, at that time, the most famous Government front-bencher after Prime Minister St. Laurent; and I was so far on the back bench that hardly a step separated me from the Commons lobby, which he crisscrossed with his characteristic bounce, back from the United Nations to report to Parliament one day, on his way to NATO or some other meeting the next.

"Yet he still had an ear for the speeches of back-benchers; and I admit that I was quite flattered when he commented on one of my first efforts and helped me jump seniority and join that year's Parliamentary delegation to the United Nations. Thus it was Mike Pearson himself who first led me up the diplomatic path.

"But I got to know Mr. Pearson much better after 1958, when he cast away for good his pinstripes -- holding on to his bow tie, mind you -- by assuming the leadership of the Liberal Party and of the Official Opposition. A temporary lapse of my own Parliamentary mandate had left me free to join Mr. Pearson's staff; during the long and difficult years which led to his Prime Ministership in 1963, I therefore witnessed how he adapted the skills developed on the diplomatic bench to a quite different calling -- but one no less political."

I certainly share Allan MacEachen's view that Mike Pearson's success as party leader and Prime Minister derived first and foremost from his uncanny ability to bring a team together and to keep it together, in spite of the long odds and the setbacks the Opposition faced in those years. I am quite sure that this ability was acquired in the corridors of international politics, where he had so dextrously