

Queen Elizabeth opens new headquarters of the Department of External Affairs

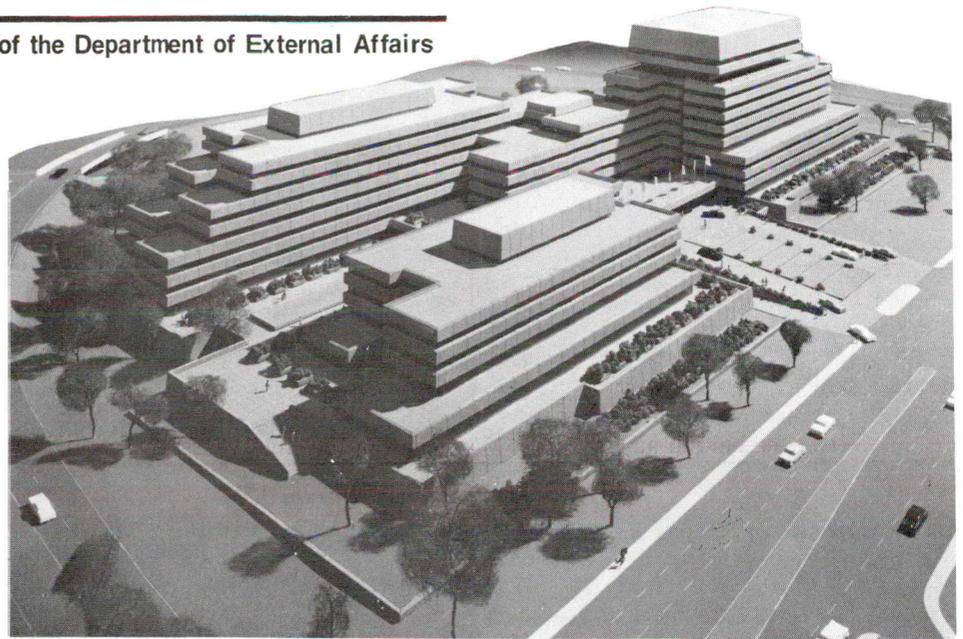
On August 1, during her second visit to Canada this summer, the Queen opened the Lester B. Pearson Building, new home of the Department of External Affairs.

Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip, who were in Ottawa from July 31 to August 4 during the first part of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, were greeted at the building by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mitchell Sharp, who presented to the Queen the Under-Secretary, A.E. Ritchie, and the Chief of Protocol, R. Rogers. Among others presented were Haiti Ambassador Philippe Cantave, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, and Mrs. Cantave, Mrs. L.B. Pearson, Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Pearson and Mrs. Walter Hannah, daughter of the late Mr. Pearson.

After a short address during which she paid tribute to Mr. Pearson, the Queen unveiled a commemorative plaque and was shown round the building, mingling with departmental personnel.



Queen Elizabeth praises the late Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson at the opening of the new External Affairs building named after him on August 1 in Ottawa. Mrs. Pearson and Secretary of State for External Affairs Mitchell Sharp are shown in the picture.



Something new in buildings

In a recent issue of *International Perspectives*, a publication of the External Affairs Department, Humphrey Carver the former chairman of the Advisory Group, Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, wrote the following of the Lester B. Pearson building:

"...The site is superb. From the penthouse terrace that surrounds the diplomatic dining-room on the ninth floor, there is a broad view up and down the Ottawa River, across to the Quebec side and on to the horizon of the wooded Gatineau Hills. To the left are the spires of Parliament Hill, just below is Earnscliffe, the modest Victorian home of Canada's first Prime Minister, and beyond the French Embassy to the right is the Prime Minister's official residence. Additional conversation pieces are the old National Research Council building just across the street, the Ottawa City Hall and that rather gruesome fortress the Mint. Displaying this whole scene to a visiting diplomat, one could with justice say: "Here is Canada." One could also explain that Sussex Drive is a kind of processional route between Parliament Hill and Rideau Hall....

"This is not really a single building but a three-dimensional cluster of several pieces, stretching nearly 300 yards along Sussex Drive, linked together and planned round a very handsome main entrance and foyer. The whole composition is raised on a

podium, with a battered wall 12 feet high, that gives a robust strength to the design and provides a setting for garden terraces and groups of large trees. The highest tower in the cluster is the principal diplomatic centre, with the protocol and reception facilities at the foyer level, the Secretary of State for External Affairs on the tenth floor just above the penthouse terrace, and the officers of the department on the second to the eighth floors.

"Also facing Sussex Drive, in a separate, lower building, is the Passport Office and, behind this, a general departmental office building....

The town square

"Entering the richly-sculptured bronze doors, one finds oneself immediately within the entry hall, which is two storeys high, not unlike the foyer of a large hotel, and serves the function of a kind of town-square surrounded by the whole cluster of buildings and their various features. In one direction from the foyer is the open hall of the Passport Office and the large cafeteria dining floor, both of which look into an interior courtyard that faces out towards the Rideau River. At the back of the foyer is the library.

"In another direction from the 'town square' is the international conference centre, with its own lobby and a smaller courtyard garden; there is a theatre-style auditorium, seating about 220, and a highly sophisticated confer-