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Ottawa, Canada

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Woman becomes Secretary of State for External Affairs — a first for Canada

The sixteenth Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Joe Clark, and members of his cabinet were sworn in, June 4, in an afternoon ceremony at Rideau Hall, the official residence of the Governor General. The only woman in the new cabinet, Miss Flora MacDonald, was named Secretary of State for External Affairs, becoming the first woman ever to hold that position.

In a departure from past practice, Mr. Clark announced the reorganization of his Cabinet, creating an 11-member "inner cabinet". The group will contain five sub-committees and all Cabinet ministers will sit on at least one sub-committee. Miss MacDonald will head the sub-committee on External Affairs and Defence.

The swearing-in ceremony, televised at the request of Mr. Clark, was opened by Governor-General Edward Schreyer. In the presence of some 250 guests, including two former Governors General, Mr. Roland Michener and Mr. Jules Léger, Mr. Clark and his 29-member Cabinet were sworn into office.

The ministers spoke their oaths of allegiance together, then each stepped forward to read his or her oath of office from a tablet presented by Privy Council Clerk, Mr. Michael Pitfield. Mr. Clark stood at Mr. Pitfield's side to congratulate the ministers and to present them to Mr. Schreyer.

The ministry, in order of precedence is:

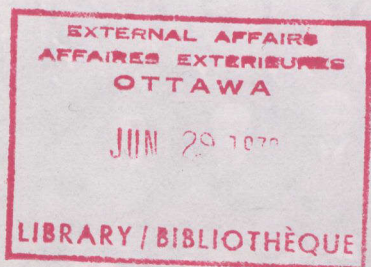
- Mr. Joe Clark, Prime Minister;
- Mr. Jacques Flynn, Leader of the Government in the Senate, and Minister of Justice and Attorney General;
- Mr. Martial Asselin, Minister of State for the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA);
- Mr. Walter Baker, President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada and Minister of National Revenue;
- Miss Flora MacDonald, Secretary of State for External Affairs;
- Mr. James McGrath, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans;
- Mr. Erik Nielsen, Minister of Public Works;
- Mr. Allan Lawrence, Solicitor General of Canada and Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs;
- Mr. John Crosbie, Minister of Finance;
- Mr. David MacDonald, Secretary of



*Secretary of State for External Affairs
Flora MacDonald*

State of Canada and Minister of Communications;

- Mr. Lincoln Alexander, Minister of Labour;
- Mr. Roch LaSalle, Minister of Supply and Services;
- Mr. Donald Mazankowski, Minister of Transport and Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board;
- Mr. Elmer MacKay, Minister of Regional Economic Expansion and Minister



Twenty-two years ago this week...

The Liberal Government under Louis St. Laurent resigned after its defeat in the June 10 election. John Diefenbaker formed the first Conservative Government in twenty-two years, with Mrs. Ellen Fairclough as the first woman minister in the Federal Cabinet.