



Lester B. Pearson

The building is named after former prime minister Lester B. Pearson, Canada's most distinguished statesman. One of the first recruits to the foreign service by competitive examination, Mr. Pearson's diplomatic postings included London and Washington. In 1946, he was named Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs. Two years later he entered political life when he was appointed Secretary of State for External Affairs, a portfolio he held until 1957. During that time, Mr. Pearson often led Canada's delegation to the General Assembly of the United Nations. His work at the United Nations to resolve the Suez Crisis of 1956 earned him the Nobel Prize for Peace. Mr. Pearson was Prime Minister of Canada from 1963 to 1968.

The Main Lobby

The northwest corner of the lobby evokes the memory of Lester B. Pearson and his career.

Located there is a bronze statue of the former prime minister by Danek Mozdzinski, along with display cases containing the citation from the Nobel Prize Committee and the medal presented to Mr. Pearson in Stockholm in 1957. These were generously donated to the Department in 1992 by Mr. Pearson's son, Geoffrey.

Nearby is the Lester B. Pearson Memorial Mural, painted by Charles Gagnon in 1975. The mural incorporates quotations from Mr. Pearson's speeches and writings, and replicates the font from the original typewritten text.