

1963

1968

THE LIBERALS RETURN

The Liberals returned to power with a minority government in the spring of 1963. With Pearson as prime minister and Paul Martin, Sr. as the new secretary of state for external affairs, an experienced team was in charge of foreign relations. They maintained tight control over foreign policy, leaving the rest of the Cabinet with little opportunity to shape Canada's international relations. However, times had changed since Pearson led the Department in the 1940s and 1950s.

The broad domestic consensus on foreign policy had broken down by the early 1960s, and public opinion had become a much more important factor in shaping the government's foreign-policy agenda. This was especially apparent in the federal government's relations with Quebec, where Premier Jean Lesage's "Quiet Revolution" had brought national unity and Quebec's search for an increased international presence to the top of the policy agenda.



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⁴¹ In January 1965, the Canadian and U.S. economies were further integrated when Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson and President Lyndon Johnson signed the Canada-U.S. Auto Pact at the President's ranch in Texas. They are flanked by External Affairs Minister Paul Martin, Sr. (left) and U.S. Secretary of State Dean Rusk (right). (Source: AP Photo)