

## PEOPLE

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## OF THE WEEK

► **NEW LEADER IN WEST?** A veteran campaigner in the East-West "cold war" found himself the center of speculation as a possible choice for civilian head of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. He is **Lester B. Pearson**, Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs—an advocate of greater powers for the Western alliance whose leaders have been meeting in Paris.

Mr. Pearson has stated that any linking of his name with the NATO post is "purely hypothetical," but the speculation continues. Present Secretary-General of NATO is Britain's Lord Ismay, who has said he would like to retire at an early date.

The Canadian is well known to American official circles as a diplomat and as a leader in the United Nations. He is a former president of the U. N. General Assembly. In 1945, after long service as a diplomat, he became Canada's second Ambassador to the U. S. Wherever he has served, most of his diplomatic colleagues have come to know him as "Mike."

The son and grandson of Methodist ministers, Mr. Pearson was born in Toronto, educated in Canada and at Oxford University, in England. He was in the Royal Canadian Flying Corps in World War I, later taught history at the University of Toronto. He is 59, has headed the Canadian Foreign Ministry since 1948. He visited Moscow last autumn, urged the Russians to end the cold war.



LESTER B. PEARSON  
... a NATO job?

► **REWARDED INVENTOR.** A hobby that became a career finally is paying off for an inventor after 35 years. Congress has voted to pay **William F. Friedman** \$100,000 for all rights to coding machines he devised as a Government employe.

The machines are top secret. No explanation of how they work has leaked out. They are believed to scramble messages in such a way that the only method of deciphering is to run them through a decoding gadget that is also the brain child of Mr. Friedman.

A native of Russia, Mr. Friedman came to the U. S. at the age of 2, was graduated from Cornell University. He became interested in cryptography while trying to find a key to authorship of Shakespeare's works, which some scholars attribute to Francis Bacon.

During World War I the inventor was in the Army Signal Corps as an instructor. Except for three years just after that war, he worked as a code expert for the Government until he retired last July. He is 64.

Because of the secret nature of his inventions, Mr. Friedman was not able to capitalize on commercial rights that he held. He is "extremely happy" with the \$100,000 purchase price, which he sees as "an incentive to other inventors to work for the national defense."

As for that puzzle involving Shakespeare, Mr. Friedman is giving his answer in a book he has written with his wife.

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WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN  
... \$100,000 for a secret