

As we observe United Nations Disarmament Week, we cannot but be concerned at the lack of substantive progress in arms control and disarmament over the past year. Nuclear arms control negotiations are at a standstill and other negotiations are being adversely affected by the current climate in East-West relations. New kinds of nuclear weapons are being developed and more countries are developing nuclear capacities. Although Canada is not a nuclear weapons power and, since July of this year, no longer has nuclear weapons on its soil, we realize that we would not be immune in any nuclear conflict. In these circumstances, the Government of Canada has assigned the highest priority to the search for peace and security. We recognize that it will be a matter of inching the world away from nuclear confrontation rather than catapulting it to peace through some grand design. We shall work closely with our allies to find ways of reducing tensions and creating the conditions for a lasting peace. We shall engage in a constructive dialogue with the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries in order to help improve East-West relations.

The Government has appointed Mr. Douglas J. Roche, a distinguished Canadian with long involvement in, and dedication to the cause of peace and disarmament, as Ambassador for Disarmament to represent Canada at the United Nations General Assembly's First Committee and other related meetings. He will advise on matters relating to arms control and disarmament and will have an important public liaison role to play, keeping in close touch with non-governmental organizations and others interested in the subject in Canada.

The Government will continue to encourage the development of an informed public opinion in Canada. Its Disarmament Fund, which was increased this year to over \$700,000, is being used to help interested individuals and non-governmental organizations with projects. In response to an application from a coalition of twenty-six Canadian women's groups, I recently informed the organizers of the decision to provide a major contribution of \$150,000 in support of their proposed international conference on "The Urgency for True Security: Women's Alternatives for Negotiating Peace" which is to take place at Mount St. Vincent University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, June 5 to 9, 1985.

The new Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security, which held its inaugural meeting in Ottawa on October 1 has been allocated funds by Parliament which will increase from \$1.5 million this year to \$5 million in five years. The Institute will contribute its share of studies and advice on specific arms control proposals and measures to reduce international tensions. The Government has provided the privately operated Canadian Centre for Arms Control and Disarmament in Ottawa an annual grant of \$100,000 to assist it in its public information and research activities. It is also contributing \$100,000 this year to the United Nations World Disarmament Campaign to assist in developing world-wide understanding of arms control and disarmament issues.