

Ottawa Canada
1997



A Global Ban
on Landmines

in the nation, which is shown here in a panoramic backdrop. Pearson's role as peacemaker is symbolized by a map of the world, with some of the trouble spots highlighted to where peacekeeping forces have been assigned.

Across the foyer from the Pearson bronze is a piece commemorating the December 1997 signing of the historic convention banning anti-personnel (AP) mines, known as the Ottawa Convention. Negotiated in Oslo, Norway, the Convention prohibits the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of AP mines. Among other things, signatory countries undertook to destroy existing stockpiles within four years and to clear minefields within 10 years. The Convention was signed in Ottawa by 122 countries, including Canada, and became international law on March 1, 1999.

To the left of the lobby is Ottawa-born painter Ken Lochhead's mural, *External Affairs*. Its atmosphere of light, space and spontaneity suggests qualities that the artist believes enhance international diplomacy as well as personal relationships.

Beside it is the second Kurelek painting in the building's collection, *The World Today*. Devoutly religious, Kurelek's later paintings convey a strong moral, even apocalyptic message. Painted in the 1960s during the Cold War and the nuclear arms race, *The World Today* depicts carefree children playing next to a burning barn; it was meant as a