



REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Introduction and Overview

The first annual report of CIIPS, published a year ago, described its origins and mandate. The Chairman's message, above, speaks of the goals of the Institute, and the following sections deal with its activities during the first full year of operation.

The creation of the Institute by Parliament in 1984 reflected concern about the adequacy of information and resources available to help the public increase its knowledge and understanding of issues of peace and security, especially as these affect Canada. However, the means of achieving this purpose were described in only the most general terms, as were the objects of Institute activity, namely "arms control, disarmament, defence and conflict resolution". The Institute's programmes correspond to the wide scope of this mandate, but details and priorities will change as a result of experience and of our capacity to respond to public demands.

These demands, we have learned, break down into a wide variety of interests, as can be seen from the description of our grants, about half of which support research projects, and half support activities designed to reach a broader public, such as producing magazines and films, holding meetings, and contributing to education generally. Initially, the Institute has deliberately followed an "open door" policy towards grant requests, both in order to discover what is on the minds of the interested public and to help develop criteria for its own programmes, given the fact that it is enjoined by its mandate to "stimulate" public discussion and to "fund" as well as to "conduct" research.

Certainly there has been no lack of activity, perhaps prompted in part by the UN proclamation of

1986 as the Year of Peace. Major conferences in Vancouver, Montreal and Toronto have benefitted from Institute support, including the publication of their proceedings and papers; a number of television documentaries are in preparation, as well as surveys of teaching materials and courses bearing on peace and security in schools and universities; plays and exhibitions have been produced, as well as newsletters. The quality of these activities has naturally varied. The Institute cannot, and should not, exercise strict control over content, nor has it wished to impose criteria at this stage which might have the effect of excluding projects on narrow grounds of "balance", or inadequate preparation. It has asked, however, that there be evidence of community support for local initiatives, and that the wider public be seen to benefit from projects of national concern.

The results of research sponsored by or initiated in the Institute will take longer to appear, but in general the projects under way (see below) address all aspects of the mandate. The research output of Institute staff will be an essential component of its credibility, but experience suggests that we can also work usefully with students and scholars by bringing together expertise in project teams, encouraging work at universities which corresponds to our interests, and in general offering a vehicle for the fostering and publication of innovative research. It will not be possible to make meaningful judgements about the research functions of the Institute for at least another year.

The same comment applies to the development of our information systems, which, we hope, will perform an important role in helping libraries across the country to retrieve and make available to students the essential data and materials on issues of