

1988 Nobel Peace Prize Award to United Nations Peacekeeping Forces

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, issued the following statement after the announcement of the 1988 Nobel Peace Prize.

"All Canadians will feel pride and pleasure at the decision of the Nobel Committee to award its Peace Prize to the United Nations Peacekeeping Forces.

No country has been more steadfast or supportive in its commitment to UN peacekeeping than Canada, and it is worth remembering that peacekeeping, as we know it today, was begun on a Canadian initiative more than 30 years ago. We have been participants in every UN peacekeeping action since that time, a record unsurpassed by any other UN member.

This would not have been possible without the unwavering support of the



Cpl. Jeff Docksey, Canada's representative to the Nobel Peace Prize presentation, with a Danish peacekeeper and General Vadset of the Norwegian army. They are outside the University of Oslo's auditorium where the prize was presented.

Photo by Norwegian Defence Headquarters Information Sect.

Canadian people to the ideals and aims of the United Nations Charter.

This award will have a special meaning for more than 80,000 Canadian men and women who have served in UN peacekeeping contingents in almost every quarter of the globe in the last three decades.

This work has often been difficult, even dangerous, and 78 Canadians have given their lives in this duty. At this very hour, Canadians continue to patrol the ramparts of peace in several troubled regions, including Iran/Iraq, Cyprus, the Middle East and Afghanistan/Pakistan.

Today's award recognizes the immeasurable value of the contribution of these brave men and women to the cause of peace." □

NATO Publishes Statistics on Conventional Forces in Europe

On November 25, 1988, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, and the Minister of National Defence, the Honourable Perrin Beatty, released for distribution in Canada a collective statistical assessment by the member states of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) concerning the strengths of the armed forces in Europe belonging to the countries of the North Atlantic Alliance and the Warsaw Treaty Organization. The document has also been made public at the Follow-up Meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) in Vienna and at NATO headquarters in Brussels.

Entitled "Conventional Forces in Europe: The Facts," this assessment clearly points to an imbalance in conventional weapons systems in Europe, which gives the East a capability for surprise attack and large-scale offensive action. It was this imbalance which was highlighted by the Heads of State and Government of



Prime Minister Mulroney and the Honourable Perrin Beatty at a recent NATO meeting.

the members of the North Atlantic Council in Brussels in March 1988 and which makes all the more urgent the initiation of new negotiations on conventional arms control within the framework of the CSCE.

It is hoped that this contribution to military transparency on the part of the

members of the North Atlantic Alliance will prompt the countries of the Warsaw Treaty Organization similarly to provide figures for their forces. Such a gesture would be a positive move and could facilitate the early stages of new negotiations, in which Canada intends to participate actively. □