

PM satisfied with peace mission

Prime Minister Trudeau returned to Canada, December 4, following a 19-day tour of Asia and the Middle East. The aim of his visit was to inject a political will for peace and to seek support for his East-West peace initiatives.

Mr. Trudeau's trip included attendance at the Commonwealth Conference in New Delhi, India where his "peace plan" won the backing of Commonwealth leaders.

The Prime Minister also visited Peking where he met with Chinese Premier, Zhao Ziyang. As many other nations indicated, the Chinese said they supported Mr. Trudeau's efforts and urged him to continue. But they did not endorse his specific proposals, especially his call for a summit of the five nuclear powers — the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and China — to discuss disarmament.

Like Britain and France, the other small nuclear powers, China believes that a five-power conference at this stage would divert attention from the main arena, the massive nuclear arsenals belonging to the two superpowers.

Mr. Trudeau said he was "very satisfied" with his meetings with West European, Japanese, Chinese and Commonwealth leaders.

Soon after Mr. Trudeau returned from his peace pilgrimage, the government's Speech from the Throne, delivered December 7 by Governor General Edward Schreyer, made peace the cornerstone of its legislative policy.

Warning that these are perilous times, that East-West tensions are rising, and that violence stalks many lands, "the pursuit of peace must be the paramount goal of mankind". The speech, expected to form the basis of Liberal party policy up to and including the next election, elevated peace to a level that international issues have seldom if ever enjoyed in Canada in recent years. Also, to help those Canadians who want to become personally involved, the government promised to increase financing for voluntary associations and research groups interested in security, arms control and disarmament.

Although the speech avoided specific mention of Mr. Trudeau's peace initiative, it promised "to continue to advance proposals to slow the steady spiral of the arms race, halt the spread of nuclear weapons and create the conditions for greater security at lower levels of armament".

Season's greetings from Prime Minister Trudeau



Mr. Trudeau's Christmas card this year shows the Prime Minister with his three sons (from left to right) Sacha age nine, Michel, eight and Justin, eleven.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

MESSAGE DU PREMIER MINISTRE

I extend with great pleasure my best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to the readers of Canada Weekly.

For us, the holiday season has always been a special moment when we can gather to celebrate our faith and brotherhood. Spiritually, it is a time of new beginnings, and the one season of the year when kindness, generosity, and gaiety triumph.

I hope this will be the case again this year, when the message of goodwill sounds for all.

May the joys and blessings of this Christmas season be yours.

Ottawa
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