



AMBASSADOR SPEAKS — Douglas Roche, Canada's disarmament ambassador (centre) chats with Eric Teed, QC of Saint John (left) and Firdaus James Kharas, Canadian executive-director of the United Nations Association. Roche was in Saint John yesterday for a speaking engagement.

Roche: Canada In Good Position To Advance World Peace Cause

By CATHY O'CONNELL
Staff Writer

Canadians should remain optimistic about world peace and refuse to let the terrorism of today destroy the hope for tomorrow, says Canada's ambassador for disarmament, Douglas Roche.

"I don't want to live in a world that's becoming an armed camp," he said in an interview. "People want peace, but they don't know how to get it."

Roche is engaged in a cross-country speaking tour to help Canadians understand what is meant by the United Nations proclamation of 1986 as the International Year of Peace.

While in Saint John, he called for a united Canadian effort to strengthen the conditions for peace in the world.

"Canada is in a good position to advance the policies of the international community. We already spend less on defence and military than most other countries in the world," he said.

A former MP, he was appointed ambassador for disarmament in 1984 and represents Canada at international meetings on disarmament; is a special advisor to the government and the chief liaison between government and non-governmental organizations.

He said the International Year of Peace should be used to focus attention on a wide agenda for peace including, not only arms control and disarmament, but economic and social development, as well as an end to discrimination.

"Multi-Splendored Goal"

Speaking at a public forum last night at the Trade and Convention Centre, Roche said "peace then is a multi-splendored goal. No one expects that this goal

can be achieved by December 1986. This is not the idea behind the International Year of Peace (IYP)."

"Rather, IYP highlights the broad international agenda that must be advanced as the world continues to evolve into a global community with increasingly closer relationships among all people," he said.

The ambassador described the important role Canada has played and will continue to play in the promotion of world peace.

"Canada and Canadians can use IYP as a catalyst in our ongoing work for peace. If we can infuse others with our hope and belief in true human security, we will have accomplished a great deal," he said.

In an interview he said, that, if given a chance, the United Nations system could go a long way to stamping out terrorism.

"Right now the world has allowed terrorism to grow to the extent that it's dictating the world agenda. We have to take it back by political and diplomatic talks."

The recent attack by the United States against Libya points out the urgency of the international community to get it's act together, he said. The question of security has to be approached from a political and diplomatic basis, not a military basis.

Noting that the roots of terrorism lie in economic and social disparity, he said a more-constructive and effective approach is to attack the cause.

The ambassador said there is hope for world peace. In the long run — through better understanding of how the world works — there is reason for optimism.