

Preface

The Act of Parliament which created the Institute stated that part of its purpose was to encourage public discussion of issues of international peace and security. One of the ways in which the Institute seeks to achieve this objective is by playing an active role in conferences which address these subjects. It is interested in attending such conferences, in helping to sponsor them financially, and, on occasion, in organizing them and preparing reports of their proceedings.

This, the third such report, summarizes the proceedings of the conference on the Risk of Accidental Nuclear War which was held at the University of British Columbia in May 1986. The meeting, which raised considerable interest, was attended by specialists from a wide range of disciplines and from several countries including the United States and the Soviet Union.

As with the first two reports in this series, "Negotiations for Peace in Central America", and "Challenges to Deterrence", the problems raised in this account are of great interest to many Canadians. We hope, therefore, that this will be of use not only to those who attended the conference but to a much wider public which is concerned about the dangers which the conference discussed.

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