

PREFACE

The purpose of this Guide is to bring together in one place the major developments affecting peace and security, and Canadian policies related thereto, over the course of a year. It can serve a useful purpose as a record of such developments and policies from a Canadian perspective, but the reader will have to draw his own conclusions if he wishes to pass judgement on Canadian responses to the many challenges briefly surveyed here. A few guidelines may perhaps be offered however to those who wish to make such a critical assessment.

First, definitions and priorities: "Arms Control" and "Disarmament" are considered together because both have to do with weapons, either by reducing their numbers or by limiting their use, although the objective of disarmament strictly considered is to abolish weapons. But unless either or both contribute to the avoidance of war they have done little to strengthen peace and security, which is the goal of efforts to limit and reduce arms. "Defence" is interpreted mainly to mean the military means Canada employs to deter war or to protect her sovereignty, although NATO is as much a political as a military alliance and "peace keeping" goes beyond the use of armed force. Finally, "Conflict Resolution" is a diplomatic concept, although the conflicts under review have mostly been characterized by the use of armed force. It may be thought that this subject should have priority, for if there were to be no conflicts there would be little use for weapons or for defence. However, the most serious potential conflict is that between the United States and the Soviet Union, and this is mostly treated under "arms control and disarmament". It is a matter of preference or prejudice whether one assigns greater or less priority to these headings. What is clear is that the greatest threat to the security of Canadians, and no doubt of everyone else, is the potential use of strategic nuclear weapons. In that sense, relations between the USSR and the West are the key determinant of Canadian security.