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Newly-established institute to study peace and security

Sparked by Prime Minister Trudeau's world-wide peace initiatives of last year, the government has taken steps to establish the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security. It is expected that the bill will be passed into law before the end of the current parliamentary session.

The so-called "Peace Institute" was first mentioned in last December's Speech from the Throne, delivered while the Prime Minister was in the midst of his globe-trotting efforts to reduce tensions between East and West. The speech specified that such a centre would "gather, collate and digest the enormous volume of information now available on defence and arms control issues. Fresh ideas and new proposals, regardless of source, will be studied and promoted".

In his address to the House of Commons introducing the bill, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan J. MacEachen declared that such an institute would make a major contribution to Canadian understanding and discussion of international peace and security issues. "At present, the principal sources of information on defence and arms control questions lie beyond our borders," Mr. MacEachen said. "This means that public judgment in Canada is shaped by perceptions of security devised by others and for the most part reported by others."

He also pointed out that the purpose of the institute was twofold. "First, it will increase knowledge of issues related to international peace and security with particular emphasis on defence, arms control and disarmament. Second, it will encourage public discussions on international peace and security issues."

Develop Canadian expertise

In planning the institute, various models were studied, including the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) and the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) based in



Allan J. MacEachen introduces the bill to establish a new Canadian Peace Institute.

London, England. "The institute should not and could not duplicate the vast range of work already done abroad," Mr. MacEachen added. "It will develop Canadian understanding and expertise. It will bring a Canadian viewpoint and Canadian concerns to the issues of peace and security."

The broad objective of the institute is to promote and foster informed public discussion on issues relating to international peace and security. To this end, its chief functions will be:

- To collect and disseminate information and ideas on international peace and security and act as a central resource for Canadian interest, activity and work in this area. (This information will be available to the public, media and government.)
- To promote scholarship in matters related to international peace and security in order to develop Canadian expertise in these areas.
- To encourage public discussion of international peace and security issues through the promotion and holding of

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