

## Preface

Part of the Institute's mandate is to encourage public discussion of issues relating to peace and security. One way in which we try to further this objective is by supporting conferences on relevant topics; we participate in such meetings, assist them financially, and in some instances publish a report of their proceedings.

The first report in this series recorded the proceedings of the Roundtable on Negotiations for Peace in Central America, of September 1985. At the time, we noted that the issue was in the forefront of international news and was also one which aroused a great deal of interest on the part of the Canadian public. This is even more obvious today, and is the reason we are publishing the proceedings of the second Roundtable on Central America which was held in May 1987.

Events have moved rapidly since this second conference took place, and much of what was only then conjecture has now been realized. An up-to-date account of these developments forms an introduction to the record of the meeting itself, and we hope it will be of value in providing the background information required for an understanding of this complex issue.

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