

strategic balance with the Soviet Union and with its own economic prospects--little attention was paid to other international issues. However, as several speakers such as Ron Fisher, Stephen Lewis and Ed Schreyer pointed out, Pierre Trudeau's peace initiative and the consequent founding of the Institute were points of light in an otherwise dark period, as were the reports referred to above.

The current international situation is more conducive to a global view of security. As Stephen Lewis reminded the conference in his opening address, the advent of Gorbachev as leader of the Soviet Union has brought about a remarkable transformation of that country's policy. This has made it possible to achieve progress in such matters as disarmament, containing conflict and strengthening the United Nations. He pointed out that there are other positive aspects of the situation as well. The new period of detente between the superpowers has drawn attention to the need for security in the Third World and has inspired a desire to deal with the problems involved. The issue of Third World debt, which came to a head in 1982 and has remained without solution ever since, is now attracting widespread attention in the West; various governments, political parties and NGOs are becoming more and more concerned with this; the plight of Africa, faced with famine and sickness has begun to trouble the conscience of the West. But above all the deterioration of the environment has been brought to everyone's attention by various alarming studies concerning changes in the atmosphere and by the discovery of a hole in the ozone layer over Antarctica.

The time was ripe, therefore, for the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security to attempt to provide a global view of Canadian security. The 1988 conference was an opportunity to study the various challenges Canada faces in this area; it also provided a platform where participants could express their views about the concrete options available to Canada and to the international community in attempting to deal with the major economic, ecological and military problems which confront humanity at the end of the twentieth century.

The conference did not set out, however, to unveil any miracle solutions or to enunciate a political programme which would solve the world's problems once and for all. As Geoffrey Pearson, the Executive Director of CIIPS at that time, pointed out, the Institute's mandate, is simply to support the general principles of international peace and