

# 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.

The first conference in which the Institute participated and of which it was a sponsor was the Roundtable on Negotiations for Peace in Central America, the proceedings of which are contained in this report.

This conference, which took place in Ottawa in September 1985, brought together an impressive array of experts on Central America from Canada, the United States, Latin America and Europe. They discussed the problems of an area in which conflict is endemic and where the possibility of outside military intervention remains a serious threat. It is also an area in which a great many Canadian non-governmental organizations take considerable interest and play an active role. This report appears at a time when Central America is once again front-page news.

The Institute intends to publish a series of such reports providing accounts of conferences with which it has been associated. We hope that these will be of use, not only to those who attend the various conferences, but also to students and to those members of the general public who are interested in the matters which are discussed. The second report, which is due to appear shortly, will be devoted to the proceedings of the conference on Challenges to Deterrence which was organized by the Institute, in October 1985.

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