

The peace movement has been instrumental in giving a sense of hope and power to individuals who have felt frightened and isolated in their concerns about the alarming trends in international relations. In a country as vast as Canada, the peace movement is an essential component in giving groups and individuals a common sense of purpose – something that universally unites people and communities from Charlottetown to Whitehorse – the preservation of life on the planet.

Prime Minister Mulroney has also given his support to these efforts. Speaking of the peace movement December 21, 1984, in the House of Commons, he said:

“I urge them strongly to maintain the pressure at all times... the pressure of honourable people working for the pursuit of peace is the strongest assurance that a democracy is healthy.”

The Government's commitment to dialogue is nowhere more evident than in the tabling of the Green Paper – the first public review of Canada's international relations. Mr. Clark has said of the review process and Canada's future foreign policy that:

“...it should not be the exclusive preserve of bureaucrats and parliamentarians, but reflect the opinions and convictions of the Canadian public at large.”

The Green Paper on Canada's International Relations was prepared precisely to aid the public review on the future directions of Canada's international relations. Few (if any) countries in the world have ever invited such open and extensive public participation in the foreign policy process.

On June 12, Parliament approved the creation of a Special Joint Committee of the House and Senate to discuss the Green Paper. Public input will be a fundamental and vital component of the review process. As Mr. Clark said in the foreword to the Green Paper:

“I encourage all Canadians with an interest in the future of their country and the contributions Canada can make to a safer, more prosperous and humane world to come to the Parliamentary hearings which will take place across the country and to make their views known.”

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