

What is meant by the United Nations proclamation declaring 1986 as the International Year of Peace? And what does it mean to Canada?

IYP is essentially a challenge to the governments and peoples of the world to focus more clearly on the multi-dimensional nature of peace -- conflict resolution, economic and social development, human rights, elimination of racial discrimination, as well as the traditional issues of arms control and disarmament.

Peace can no longer be defined as the absence of war, though the avoidance of nuclear war must be the chief priority.

Peace requires more than a reduction of arms, though disarmament measures are essential.

Peace demands the attaining of true human security so that people everywhere can live free of the threat of war, free of violations of their human rights, free to develop their own lives to attain economic and social progress.

Peace, then, is a multi-splendored goal.

No one expects that this goal can be achieved by December 31, 1986. That is not the idea behind the International Year of Peace. Rather, IYP highlights the broad international agenda that must be advanced as the world continues to evolve into a global community with increasingly closer relationships among all peoples.

This growing recognition that the planet is a place of common ground, with common vulnerability and common opportunity is the real message of IYP. It establishes peace as a system of values. This is clearly an advance in global thinking. And this advance constitutes a signal of hope to a humanity that has for too long been fractured and frustrated in the attaining of enduring human security.

All this is a subject critical to Canada's interests in the modern world as was indicated by Canada's co-sponsorship of the IYP resolution at the United Nations.

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