INTRODUCTION

Unlike most traditional conferences on security, the 1988 Annual Conference of the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security did not set out to identify Canada's friends and enemies, nor did it seek to list the military threats facing Canada and its allies or discuss the best methods of protecting ourselves against these.

The conference was concerned, rather, with Canadian security in all its aspects, and the security of all those living in Canada, instead of that of the state as such. Moreover, security was not dealt with simply from a political or military point of view. The conference emphasized the pressing need for efforts to protect Canadians against the many threats to their physical well-being, their liberty, their happiness and their health. In addition, the conference saw the security of Canadians as being inextricably bound up with that of the rest of the world; such dangers as the nuclear arms race, regional conflict, Third World poverty and the deterioration of the environment threaten the welfare of every single human being. These are the challenges of the 21st century.

This concept of global security is summed up very well in a passage from the Brandt Commission Report of 1980:

> An important task of constructive international policy will have to consist in providing a new, more comprehensive understanding of "security" which would be less restricted to the purely military aspects. In the global context true security cannot be achieved by a mounting build-up of weapons--defence in the narrow sense--but only by providing basic conditions for peaceful relations between nations, and solving not only the military but also the non-military problems which threaten them.

Both the 1982 Palme Report on disarmament and the 1987 Brundtland Report on the environment also envisage security as requiring a multilateral process for solving global problems through the auspices of the United Nations.

Unfortunately, until recently the international situation was so bad that those, in Canada or elsewhere, who accepted this global concept of security were voices crying in the wilderness. Relations between the United States and the Soviet Unions were at their worst and this led to cynicism and a sense of fatalism. In addition, the economic crisis had made the West indifferent to Third World poverty and there was a general return to individualism. In the early 80s the West was mainly concerned with maintaining a