

Acknowledgements

This report and the interim report that the committee presented on August 23, 1985 are the product of dedicated work, during an intensive 11-month period, of many Senators and Members of the House of Commons who participated in the work of the Special Joint Committee on Canada's International Relations. The Foreword to this report describes the committee's work program. It remains for us to express our thanks to the members of all parties and both Houses whose hard work and efforts to understand each other's point of view have made this a better document than it would otherwise have been.

The committee's task has been challenging. Apart from the vast scale of the undertaking, the process of reaching agreement on a common text required extensive debate among Members and a will to seek accommodations. This is never easy in the political environment of Parliament. Although Canada's international policies have enjoyed broad all-party support during the post-war years, there are some subjects where the political parties are committed to different positions. For this reason, trying to reach consensus has involved all Members in making compromises. On those few occasions when it has been impossible to find a common position and differences have been important, we have chosen to record and briefly describe our divergences.

The result is a document that truly represents a committee perspective; it does not reflect precisely the views of any one Member.

In addition to the hard work of the members of the committee, we would like to recognize and acknowledge the excellent service provided to the committee by its staff. The five Joint Clerks who served the committee for various lengths of time — Mr. Paul Belisle, Miss Paulette Nadeau and Miss Doreen Lebrun from the Senate; Miss Jean Macpherson and Mr. Donald Reid from the House of Commons — not only acted with professionalism and competence in all aspects of the committee's work, but worked extended hours week after week with good humour and without complaint. The office staff working with them through the life of the committee, and the professional and untiring research team assembled under Mr. Peter Dobell of the Parliamentary Centre to work with Study Director Dr. Gerald Wright and Mr. Bill Neil of the Library of Parliament, all contributed to the realization of the committee's report on its nearly year-long enterprise. To all of them, we express our appreciation. Nor would we wish to overlook the meticulous, prompt and proudly professional service rendered — often under very tight deadlines — by the team of translators assembled under Mr. Dominique Soudet of the Translation Service of the Secretary of State and by our editors, Kathryn Randle and Georges Royer, who strove with them to bring our report to articulate expression in both official languages.

We also express our deep gratitude to the many witnesses who appeared and those who wrote to us, who have followed the committee's deliberations with care and have continued to send us their views and to provide counsel.

The satisfaction we take at having reached the point of presenting this report to Parliament is augmented by our recognition of these contributions. We hope that our colleagues in Parliament, the government of Canada to whose attention we direct many of our recommendations, and the interested public by whose participation our thinking