
REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

In the Federal Budget of 25 February 1992, the Minister of Finance announced the Government's intention to "wind up" or eliminate twenty-one diverse entities financed by the Federal Government, including the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security. On 10 March 1992 the Minister of Finance introduced Bill C-63, an Act to dissolve or terminate certain corporations and other bodies, this Institute being one of them.

The Board of Directors has stated that the Government's decision is completely unjustified in light of the record of performance under the Institute's mandate from Parliament, and is likely to result in a major loss of the Canadian taxpayer's investment. The Board, and many others inside and outside Canada, have called for the decision to be reversed. The dissolution of the Institute will be especially damaging and untimely in a period when the international situation is undergoing such radical change and the Institute, and collaborators under its programmes, have been in the forefront of shaping Canadian understanding, response and initiative.

This final annual report bears witness to a full harvest. Even with the modest presentation we have chosen for the final reckoning, readers will note a productive and active year, with many projects coming to fruition. It is a bittersweet legacy; the Institute's accomplishments underscore its ability to produce, and underline how valuable it would have been to continue.

In testimony before the Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade, and the Legislative Committee examining Bill C-63, the Chairman, my colleagues and I have reported on our efforts to ensure that as many of the Institute's programmes as possible continue in one form or another. The library and data base will be transferred to the Canadian Forces Command and Staff College Library in Toronto, with the understanding that the fullest public access will be maintained. Grants, awards and scholarships will be carried on, in a somewhat altered form, through the Department of External Affairs and International Trade. Several of the Institute's research projects are also being carried through to completion in the last part of 1991-92 and the early part of the next fiscal year. The Guide 1992 will be finished and published.

But in the end, it will be impossible for any government department or non-governmental organization to accomplish the full range of Institute activity. This is most evident in two areas. First, under the public programmes side of our mandate, much of the product - publications, media relations, work with teachers and students, joint projects, conferences and seminars - depended for its credibility and success on the independence and non-partisanship of the Institute. These attributes were made possible by the Institute's special legal structure, and they were made a reality by a record of scrupulous performance. This kind of special institution will now be lost and