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## THE ORIGINS OF THE CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

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"Improving the climate among nations requires knowledge, creativity and a determination to find solutions. Reflecting Canada's concern about international tensions, the Government will create a publicly funded centre to gather, collate and digest the enormous volume of information now available on defence and arms control issues. Fresh ideas and new proposals, regardless of source, will be studied and promoted."

These words in the Speech from the Throne read by Governor General, Edward Schreyer on 7 December 1983, announced the Government's intention to propose to Parliament the creation of an Institute whose mission would be to promote public understanding of the complex issues relating to issues of defence, arms control and disarmament. Consultations between the Prime Minister and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties identified a large number of essential points on which a general consensus existed, including the necessity for the future organization to be independent. As a result, a Bill was introduced in the House of Commons on 16 April 1984, and sent to the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence for examination and advice. The Committee heard 63 witnesses from the private and public sectors. A text was produced by the Committee that proved acceptable to all Parties: it was adopted unanimously in the House on 28 June 1984 as Bill C32.

Section 4 of the Act entrusts the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security with the following responsibilities:

"to increase knowledge *and understanding* of the issues relating to international peace and security *from a Canadian perspective*, with particular emphasis on arms

control, disarmament, defence and *conflict resolution*, and to

- a) foster, fund and conduct research on matters relating to international peace and security; ✓
- b) promote scholarship in matters relating to international peace and security;
- c) *study and propose ideas and policies for the enhancement of international peace and security*; ✓
- d) collect and disseminate information on, and encourage public discussion of, issues of international peace and security."

The italicized words constitute new elements which were added as a result of discussions in the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence.

These additions have far-reaching implications, in that they give the topic of "conflict resolution" a value equal to that bestowed by the original text on the subjects of arms control, disarmament and defence. They also empower the Institute to become, through its research, the initiator of ideas or policies capable of advancing the cause of international peace and security. ✓

The Parliamentary debate resulted in substantial changes to the original objectives pursued by the Government. The Institute was told to probe beyond the superficial reasons for war to the underlying causes of all armed conflicts; the Parliamentary debate also made possible, through the insertion of clause c), active Institute participation in public or Government discussions on the full range of on-going issues. Finally, the inclusion of the expression "from a Canadian perspective" in the main part of the section rather than in its last paragraph as was previously the case, emphasized the require-

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