

THE CREATION OF THE INSTITUTE

. . . Improving the climate among nations requires knowledge, creativity, and a determination to find solutions. Reflecting Canada's concern about current 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.

Speech from the Throne
7 December 1983

These words, taken from the Speech from the Throne opening the Second Session of the Thirty-Second Parliament of Canada, explain the origins of the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security.

Following the Throne Speech, in the Spring of 1984, the Prime Minister and the Leaders of the Opposition parties exchanged correspondence about the nature and functions of the Institute. A large measure of agreement was achieved through this exchange and in mid-April legislation was introduced in the House of Commons. The Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence examined the Bill during May and June and submitted its report to the House on 26 June, after hearing more than forty witnesses. In the correspondence and throughout the Committee proceedings, there was general acceptance of the principle that the proposed Institute should be independent and objective in its approach.

Two specific measures were undertaken to ensure the Institute's independence. It was provided that the Directors of the Institute be appointed from among nominees suggested by a wide range of non-governmental organizations (listed in a schedule attached to the Act) "after consultation by the (designated) Minister with the Leader of the Opposition in the House of Commons and the Leader of every other recognized party in the House of Commons . . ." Second, specific provision was made in the legislation for the funding of the Institute. As a result, the Minister of Finance directly pays to the Institute an annual appropriation out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, beginning with \$1.5 million for fiscal year 1984/85 and rising to \$5 million in 1988/89. In each fiscal year thereafter, the Institute is to be paid \$5 million "or such greater amount as may be appropriated by Parliament."

On 28 June 1984, Bill C-32, an act to establish the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security was adopted unanimously by the House of Commons with the following mandate:

The purpose of the Institute is 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; and
- d) collect and disseminate information on, and encourage public discussion of, issues of international peace and security.

On 15 August 1984 the legislation officially came into force and the Secretary of State for External Affairs was designated as the Institute's Minister for purposes of the Act. On the same day, fourteen persons were appointed to the Institute's eventual seventeen member Board.