



communiqué

N°:
No.: 59

March 6, 1986.

CANADA'S INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PEACE PROGRAMME

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, today announced the details of Canada's International Year of Peace (IYP) programme.

The Canadian Government's programme of activities includes the following:

- A contribution of \$10,000.00 to the International Year of Peace Voluntary Trust Fund of the United Nations.

This contribution was announced on October 31, 1985 as part of Canada's overall contribution of \$100,000.00 to the objectives of the United Nations World Disarmament Campaign. Canada's contribution, one of the largest contributions made to the Voluntary Trust Fund, will support activities undertaken by the United Nations IYP Secretariat during the International Year of Peace.

- A cross-Canada tour from April 14 - May 2 by the Ambassador for Disarmament, Mr. Douglas Roche.

Mr. Roche will discuss the International Year of Peace and the question of the relationship between disarmament and development with members of the Consultative Group on Disarmament and Arms Control Affairs and with interested Canadians.

- The preparation, in book form, of a selection of essays written by distinguished Canadians and dealing with the broad themes of the International Year of Peace from individual perspectives.

This book, prepared in order to encourage reflection on the basic requirements of peace in the contemporary world, as proposed by the United Nations, will be published in the fall of 1986 and presented to the United Nations as a distinctive Canadian contribution to the International Year of Peace. It will also receive wide distribution in Canada.

- An essay competition for Canadians dealing with the theme "What is peace and what can I do to achieve it" and a poster competition on the International Year of Peace.

Winners of the competition will be awarded a trip to the United Nations in New York. This competition is being organized by the United Nations Association in Canada (UNAC) under the terms of a contribution from the Disarmament Fund of the Department of External Affairs. Inquiries should be directed to the UNAC at Suite 808 - 63 Sparks Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5A5 (tel: (613) 232-5751).

- The issuing of a commemorative stamp by Canada Post Corporation in the fall of 1986 to mark the International Year of Peace. Further details will be announced by Canada Post in the near future.
- Funding priority, through the Disarmament Fund, to projects directly linked to the objectives of the IYP that meet the criteria of the Fund.

The Disarmament Fund, which totalled over \$500,000.00 in the 1985-86 fiscal year, will encourage a balanced discussion of arms control and disarmament issues in Canada.

Mr. Clark said the Government of Canada supports the broad objectives of the International Year of Peace, which include stimulating action by the United Nations and Member States in promoting peace and security on the basis of the United Nations Charter; strengthening the United Nations system as the principal international system devoted to the promotion of peace; and focussing attention on the basic requirements of peace in the contemporary world. Canada was a co-sponsor of the International Year of Peace resolution that received the unanimous consent of the UN General Assembly on October 24, 1985. The IYP resolution recognizes the multi-dimensionality of peace in that it encompasses not only the prevention of war but also the enhancement of the quality of life, human rights and fundamental freedoms, the satisfaction of human needs, international development, the protection of the environment and other questions. Mr. Clark said that Canada has always stressed the role of the United Nations and the UN Charter in enhancing international peace and security and will continue to work towards those ends, not just in 1986 but every year.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs said the broad scope of the Government's IYP programme reflects its abiding concern for the enhancement of international peace and security. He said that this continues to be one of the highest priorities of the Canadian Government.

Mr. Clark noted that various Government departments are taking into account the themes of the IYP in their activities during 1986.