

# Foreword

The majority of papers in this thematic issue were first presented at the **International Conference on Peace and Security**, held in Montreal, April, 1986. As the Director of this conference, co-sponsored by the Faculty of Education of McGill University and GEMS Conference and Consulting Services, I have been asked to share a few reflections.

In planning the conference, a great deal of support was received from interested persons and groups. In this regard, special mention must be made of **The Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security**. As well, we were especially pleased to have with us such world renowned speakers as Stephen Lewis, Canadian Ambassador to the United Nations, Elie Wiesel, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, and psychiatrist and author Robert J. Lifton.

As part of the conference activity, we were able to arrange at the McCord Museum, with the co-operation of Dr. Marcel Caya, Director, a visual display on the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This display was presented by the Department of Public Information of the United Nations, supported by The Soka Gakkai, the City of Hiroshima, and the City of Nagasaki, Japan.

There are numerous organizations in Canada devoted to the many aspects of peace. These groups run the full range of political interests, and involve Canadians from every vocation and all ages. We found a serious dichotomy between those concerned with peace and those concerned with security. We hope that the conference played a modest role in encouraging dialogue among the many groups represented.

This conference underscored the realization that peace education has not yet found a place in the official school curriculum. In addition, there are practically no "peace" teachers, and no budgets for their activities. As a result of these conditions, the percentage of teachers attending the conference was much smaller than anticipated. However, over one thousand people did attend, and the conference, widely reported in the media, made an important impact on the community.

It is my hope that by the Faculty of Education publishing a selection of conference papers in this issue of the Journal, we will all be helped to discern some of the illusions and realities in the nuclear age.

Edward Polak