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When the idea of an institute on peace and security was first proposed to Parliament on December 7, 1983, the text of the Throne Speech read as follows:

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.

Approaches to the problems of peace and war have not changed radically in the last twenty years; the world, however, has. Technological innovations, particularly in the field of communications, have altered inexorably the nature of international relations – in terms of communications between governments as well as between peoples.

The recent report of the Brundtland Commission points to the rapid destruction of some of the earth's most precious natural resources. The task of preserving the environment, debt crises and shifts in the economic balance of power, the exponential growth of population and increasing dislocation of peoples by reasons of war or famine – all of these factors affect the security and peace of all nations, including our own.

It is in this context, a world made smaller by virtue of interdependence and shared responsibilities, but a world made bigger by virtue of its complexities and rapidly changing conditions, that teachers are

faced with the challenge of educating the young. One of the tasks of education is to prepare young people for a future which contains more questions than answers. And it is young people who will carry the burden of finding fresh ideas and approaches to peace and security. Education, taken in this context, is a particularly difficult challenge.

The **Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security** is equipped to assist modestly in this endeavour. The Institute has held seminars for teachers, publishes a series of **Background Papers** that are written for the interested, non-expert public, and has cooperated with others in the design of teaching aids and study programmes. In addition, the Institute provides support to events such as the conference hosted by the Faculty of Education at McGill University, "Illusions and Realities in the Nuclear Age." Events and publications that expose teachers to a variety of views and perceptions are a necessary and worthwhile endeavour.

Boards of Education and Provincial Ministries, meanwhile, are coping with the problem of how best to teach controversial issues such as the arms race and the Cold War. We cannot expect young people to grasp fully the complexities of today's world. But we can pose these problems in such a way that they are equipped with the ability to analyze critically, to appreciate divergent views and assumptions, and to apply sound judgment as well as much needed imagination to the challenges they will face as adults and, indeed, as future leaders.

