

PRESS RELEASE

(PPC 8/95)

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE PEARSON PEACEKEEPING CENTRE

The Honourable David Collenette, Minister of National Defence will be the Guest of Honour at the Official Opening of The Lester B. Pearson Canadian International Peacekeeping Training Centre to be held at the Centre's campus at Cornwallis Park, Clementsport, N.S. at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, 24 April 1995.

Established by the Government of Canada in 1994 and funded partly by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and the Department of National Defence, The Pearson Peacekeeping Centre's mandate is to support and enhance the Canadian contribution to international peace, security and stability. The Centre accomplishes its mission through an extensive range of training courses, seminars, round tables, high school and university simulations, and a substantial publishing programme - all serving a multidisciplinary, international clientele.

The Centre is named in Honour of The Right Honourable Lester B. Pearson, inventor of peacekeeping, winner of the 1957 Nobel Peace Prize, and former Prime Minister of Canada.

The basis of the Centre's approach to peacekeeping in all its aspects is *"The New Peacekeeping Partnership,"* the term applied to the military, government, and non-government agencies dealing with humanitarian assistance, refugees, and displaced persons; election monitors and media; and civilian police personnel as they work together to improve the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations. Students and instructors from around the world will come to the Centre to study Canada's style of peacekeeping, to discuss lessons learned from past missions and to formulate practices and procedures to ensure the success of future missions.

In addition to Mr. Collenette, platform guests will include The Honourable Jean-Jacques Blais and Brigadier-General Don Macnamara, Chaimian of the Board of Directors and President respectively, of the Canadian Institute of Strategic Studies; the Honourable John Savage, Premier of Nova Scotia; Mr. Geoffrey Pearson, retired distinguished Canadian diplomat and son of the late Lester B. Pearson; and Alex Morrison, President of the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre.

The Canadian Institute of Strategic Studies was chosen to organize and operate the Centre because of its "strong reputation ... and its on-going commitment to furthering Canadian understanding of peace and security issues." Messrs Collenette, Blair and Macnamara will jointly present the formal Charter of the Centre to Mr. Morrison.

Other special guests will include the 25 students from 10 countries attending the course *"Creating Common Ground: Peacekeeping Negotiation and Mediation."*

In attendance will be serving and retired Canadian Forces and Royal Canadian Mounted Police peacekeeping veterans. Branches of the Royal Canadian Legion will provide a colour party while music will be supplied by the Annapolis West Education Centre Concert Band directed by Mr. Gene Hay, and by Pipers from 14 Wing at Canadian Forces Base Greenwood and from Headquarters Land Force Atlantic Area.

Following the opening ceremonies, a reception will be held for all guests.

Members of the public are invited to attend, but are asked to register with John Harrison, the PPC Opening Coordinator, at telephone (902) 638-8234 or 638-8808 or facsimile (902) 638-8888.

