

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PC 2000-11

PEARSON PEACEKEEPING CENTRE

ANNOUNCES

A SERIES OF PUBLIC FORUMS

"Peacekeeping and the Future: A Canadian Commitment"

In response to the Report of the Independent Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (the Brahimi Report), released on 21 August 2000, the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre will convene a series of public forums in selected Canadian cities to discuss the proposed restructuring of UN peacekeeping operations.

The aim of the forums is to increase public awareness of and support for Canadian participation in international peacekeeping. In addition, the sessions will inform the public of the activities of the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre relative to the Brahimi Report, which emphasized the importance of training in the success of future peacekeeping missions. The mission of the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre is to support and enhance the Canadian contribution to international peace, security, and stability through the provision of quality research, education and training in all aspects of peacekeeping.

The forums will engage the Canadian public in a discussion of Canada's role and future in international peacekeeping operations in light of the recommendations put forth by the Brahimi Report commissioned by the United Nations Secretary-General. As well, the Canadian Senate's report on NATO and Peacekeeping and the reports produced by the Standing Committee on National Defence and Veterans Affairs will influence discussions.

These forums will be significant to all who have an interest in Canada's role in peacekeeping. Locations include: Halifax (27 September - Delta Halifax), Montreal (3 October), Ottawa (4 October), Toronto (5 October), Winnipeg (10 October), Calgary (11 October) and Victoria (13 October) - from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. - and will consist of expert presentations, discussions and media briefings. Exact locations in other cities are yet to be determined. Presenters will include a member of the Brahimi Report Panel, Canadian government officials and representatives of academia, non-governmental agencies and The Pearson Peacekeeping Centre.

At the conclusion of the cross-Canada tour, a report will be prepared by the PPC which will include the proceedings of the public forums, as well as the points raised in question periods and a summation of the views of those in attendance. This report will include an analysis of the findings for submission to both the Canadian government and the United Nations.

On seminar adjournment, there will be a separate media briefing session. Media are invited to attend the entire meeting.

