

MEDIA RELEASE

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**PEARSON PEACEKEEPING CENTRE**

**SUCCESSFULLY HOSTS LEADERS IN PEACEKEEPING**

**Clementsport, Nova Scotia, October 31, 2001** – The Pearson Peacekeeping Centre successfully completed its October 29-30 seminar, *Special Envoys in the Twenty-First Century: Diplomacy, Leadership and Management*, involving senior officials from the United Nations, NATO, and other international organizations. Among many issues, the participants examined the emerging situation in Afghanistan and made recommendations about the mandate and organization of a potential peacekeeping mission to that country.

The visiting dignitaries included Yasushi Akashi of Japan, head of the UN's wartime mission to Bosnia and Croatia; Dame Margaret Anstee of Great Britain, who led the UN in Angola; Ambassador Robert L. Barry of the United States, retired US diplomat and former head of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's (OSCE) post-war mission to Bosnia; and Shahayar Kilan of Pakistan, who supervised the UN's efforts in Rwanda following Canadian General Romeo Dallaire's attempt to avert the 1994 genocide. The participants discussed the changing nature of UN and military peacekeeping in the twenty-first century and its impact on the management, organization, and staffing of missions.

*"Both the participants and the PPC were very pleased with the animated and frank discussions that different organizational, national, civilian and military perspectives brought to this Special Envoy seminar," said PPC President Alex Morrison. "By assembling some of the most important figures in peacekeeping from around the globe and exploring the impact Special Envoys will have on twenty-first century peacekeeping, the PPC will maintain its place at the forefront of developments in this area. These efforts will be essential for Canada and the International Community to prepare for emerging peacekeeping missions, in Afghanistan or anywhere else in the world, and for the continued development of older peacekeeping missions, especially where Canada is heavily involved, as in Bosnia."*

The PPC will use the seminar's findings to prepare a set of recommendations on the organization of future peacekeeping missions to its partners in government and among international organizations (such as the UN, OSCE and NATO), as part of the continuing process of revision of the PPC's training programmes, and eventual publication as a textbook for use at the university level.

