

NEWS RELEASE

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Pearson Peacekeeping Centre to Host Leaders in Peacekeeping

Comwallis, October 26, 2001 - The Pearson Peacekeeping Centre (PPC) announced today that it is holding a seminar entitled *Special Envoys in the Twenty-First Century: Diplomacy, Leadership and Management*, involving senior officials from the United Nations, NATO, Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs, and other international organizations. The seminar is being held on October 29 and 30 at the PPC's offices in Cornwallis, Nova Scotia. Among the issues to be discussed, the participants will be asked to review the emerging situation in Afghanistan and make recommendations about the mandate and organization of a potential UN peacekeeping mission in that country.

The visiting dignitaries include 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 Khan of Pakistan, who supervised the UN's efforts in Rwanda following Canadian General Romeo Dallaire's attempt to avert the 1994 genocide. They will discuss the changing nature of UN and military peacekeeping in the twenty-first century, and its impact on the management, organization, and staffing of missions.

"The Pearson Peacekeeping Centre remains at the cutting edge of developments in peacekeeping in Canada and internationally, providing support and training on the modern realities of peacekeeping, both civilian and military, to peacekeepers from across the globe," said PPC President Alex Morrison. "This Special Envoy seminar, assembling some of the most important figures in peacekeeping over the last decade's, is a key component of the PPC's efforts to prepare for emerging peacekeeping missions in Afghanistan or elsewhere."

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.

The PPC's mission is to support and enhance Canada's contribution to international peace, security, and stability through the provision of quality research, education and training, in all aspects of peacekeeping. More than 4000 participants from 160 countries have gone through the PPC's training programmes which examine specific peacekeeping challenges and educates participants in the latest peacekeeping techniques.

The Pearson Peacekeeping Centre offers a unique experience as it trains military personnel and civilians together. This approach reflects the reality of current peacekeeping practices.