A 1994 blueprint for a Canadian and Multinational Peacekeeping Training Centre at CFB Cornwallis: a commitment to regional, national, and international security

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A 1994 BLUEPRINT FOR A CANADIAN AND MULTINATIONAL PEACEKEEPING TRAINING CENTRE AT CFB CORNWALLIS

A COMMITMENT TO REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Training for UN service is of particular importance. Such training — military or para-military or civilian — should have a certain uniformity in all countries likely to participate in peace-keeping operations. It should take into account the training requirements of individual units. It should include a substantial content of United Nations philosophy. Personnel of all categories should be educated in the aims and purposes of the United Nations, in its political methods and administrative procedures, in the significance of the peacekeeping role. This is particularly true for the soldiers of all ranks,...in the tasks of separating armies, supervising truce lines or calming hostile factions, the United Nations soldier will be frequently called upon to exert a mediatory rather than a military influence.


And the Liberal Party feels the time for such a centre has come. Liberals feel the time has come because with the end of the Cold War the United Nations has signalled its intention to become more active in stabilizing conflicts through peacekeeping operations. The Liberal Party supports the UN's resolve in this area. We also feel that peacekeeping should rank higher on the list of Canada's defence priorities in terms of budget, personnel and infrastructure. Independent studies have supported the Cornwallis Committee's claim that CFB Cornwallis could serve well in this regard. It not only has impressive training facilities, it is ideally situated to serve as a staging area for international peacekeeping troops.

Accordingly, at our February 1992 National Policy Convention we adopted a resolution calling for an increase in support for the UN and the establishment in Canada of a Peacekeeping Training Centre for both Canadian and non-Canadian troops at CFB Cornwallis.

The Right Honourable Jean Chretien, September 1, 1993
The Action Plan: Establishing CFB Cornwallis as Canada’s Peacekeeping Training Centre

Peacekeeping is the dominant Canadian defence activity of the 1990s. The challenges our military and civilian peacekeepers face are often hazardous and increasingly complex. They deserve the best preparation Canada can offer.

The United Nations General Assembly has called on member states to establish regional and national peacekeeping training centres. Last year the Standing Committee on National Defence and Veterans Affairs considered this request and recommended that Canada establish a permanent peacekeeping training centre urging as well that appropriate training be provided to all ranks and reserves.

The Prime Minister and the Liberal Party of Canada are committed to establishing a permanent Canadian and Multinational Peacekeeping Training Centre at CFB Cornwallis.

This is an opportunity for Canada to consolidate its role as the world leader in peacekeeping. As Prime Minister Chretien confirmed last year, "the time for such a centre has come."
In 1991, Nova Scotia developed the first comprehensive plan for peacekeeping training. This plan calls for the cost-effective conversion of CFB Cornwallis. This initiative has earned widespread support as a contribution to regional, national and international security.

The Cornwallis training base has the required facilities, support services and sufficient space. Its proximity to Canadian Forces air, naval and land support makes it conducive to joint peacekeeping training. The Liberal Party supports this site as an excellent opportunity to convert defence training infrastructure to serve Canadian and United Nations objectives.

The strategic and economic grounds for CFB Cornwallis as Canada’s Peacekeeping Training Centre are detailed once again in this report: "A 1994 Blueprint for a Canadian and Multinational Peacekeeping Training Centre at CFB Cornwallis".

It is important for the safety and confidence of the Canadians who represent our country, and it is important for Canada’s international reputation, that advance training for UN operations begin as quickly as possible at a dedicated peacekeeping training centre. CFB Cornwallis can be operational as Canada’s peacekeeping training centre within six months.
This initiative reflects the long-term vision and commitment to internationalism that inspired peacekeeping and continues to inspire Canadians.
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