

Institute Publications 1987-88

OCCASIONAL PAPERS

3. **Arctic Arms Control: Constraints and Opportunities**, by Ronald G. Purver, February 1988.
4. **From Lenin to Gorbachev: Changing Soviet Perspectives on East-West Relations**, by Paul Marantz, May 1988.
5. **The Debate About Nuclear Weapon Tests**, by Jozef Goldblat and David Cox, June 1988.

ANNUAL REVIEW

A Guide to Canadian Policies on Arms Control, Disarmament, Defence and Conflict Resolution 1986-87, 270 pages.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

13. **Review of the Geneva Negotiations on Strategic Arms Reductions**, by David Cox, June 1987.
14. **The Stockholm Agreement: An Exercise in Confidence Building**, by C.A. Namiesniowski, August 1987.
15. **Peacekeeping and the Management of International Conflict**, by Henry Wiseman, September 1987.
16. **Accidental Nuclear War: Reducing the Risks**, by Dianne DeMille, January 1988.
17. **Chemical Disarmament: From the Ban on Use to a Ban on Possession**, by Jozef Goldblat, February 1988.
18. **Has the ABM Treaty a Future?** by Ronald G. Purver, February 1988.
19. **The War in the Gulf**, by Francine Lecours, May 1988.
20. **Destabilization of the Frontline States of Southern Africa, 1980-1987**, by Dan O'Meara, June 1988.

POINTS OF VIEW

3. **Canadian Press Coverage of Arms Control and Disarmament Issues**, by John R. Walker, March 1987.
4. **Maintaining Peace With Freedom: Nuclear Deterrence and Arms Control**, by Lorne Green, March 1987.
5. **Towards a World Space Organization**, by Elisabeth Mann Borgese, November 1987.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

4. **Peace, Development and Security in the Caribbean: Perspectives to the Year 2000**. Proceedings of a Conference, Kingston, Jamaica, 22-25 March 1987, by Lloyd Searwar.
5. **Measures for Peace in Central America**, 8-9 May 1987, by Liisa North, December 1987.
6. **The International Trade in Arms: Problems and Prospects**, by Keith Krause, March 1988.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

■ In May a group of Soviets experts on the West came through Ottawa to talk and to listen. At the top of everyone's list of questions was the prospect for an American-Soviet nuclear arms treaty, the subject of this issue's cover article by **David Cox**. What one of the Soviet experts, Henry Trofimenko, had to say on the subject was arresting not for what he said, but for how he said it.

I am not a professional student of the USSR and like most people I regard the recent avalanche of talk and writing about the place with a combination of curiosity, hopefulness and fatigue – enough *glasnost* already. But unlike many people these conflicting feelings are leavened with the experience of two visits to the USSR in 1982 during the dying days (literally) of the rule of Leonid Brezhnev. I directed a film crew there for a few weeks – an intensely frustrating business because the bombast-to-substance ratio in the resulting interviews was enormous.

Based on my brief but intense exposure five years ago, Soviet society appeared to have a widespread, institutionalized and instinctive capacity for denying

reality. The phenomenon cropped up in almost every social exchange – from Marshals in the Soviet Army to translators.

My favourite lunatic conversation was in a Moscow restaurant on the subject of mushrooms. “Can I have some mushrooms with dinner.” “We don't have any.” “You had some yesterday.” “No, we've never had them.” “Yes you did, I was here and I ate some.” “Impossible . . . you didn't eat here.” In 1982 it was easier for a Soviet citizen to deny the existence of mushrooms or me than to admit that the Soviet central mushroom delivery apparatus had screwed-up.

And in 1988, what has changed in the manner of talk? When asked about the prospects for a US-Soviet agreement to cut nuclear arsenals Trofimenko answered with the kind of directness I never encountered in 1982. There would not be a treaty this year because there were lots of unsolved problems and because a new president would come to power very soon: “I expect that they would be positive – whoever might be the US president – towards continuing this process. But probably any new president who would come to the White House in January 1989 would say

he would want a better deal than has been outlined in the previous negotiations . . .” In other words, the START talks would not succeed until next year not because Americans were the “enemies of all peace-loving people everywhere” (1982-style answer) but because that is the way of high bureaucratic politics.

If the new tone is a true measure of a maturation in Soviet political culture then maybe the super-powers will get on with talking about what really matters.

■ In addition to **Fen Hampson** on the looming political crisis in the Western Alliance, **Clyde Sanger's** novel approach to arctic sovereignty, and **Geoffrey Pearson** on how the West should view Mr. Gorbachev's initiatives to reform Soviet society, **Cary Hector** assesses recent events in Haiti.

Mr. Hector is a professor of political science at Université du Québec à Montréal, and is on the editorial board of the periodical *Collectif Paroles* – published in Montreal. He returned to his native country for two months last year to follow the electoral campaign.

– Michael Bryans

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