

■ The eternal dance of the Hindu god Shiva, who holds in his hands the drum of creation and the fire of destruction, is a fitting symbol for the power condensed in the heart of the atom.

Sheldon Gordon's article on a potential nuclear arms race between India and Pakistan is particularly timely in view of recent developments.

In the summer of 1985, Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi alleged that Pakistan was on the verge of developing nuclear weapons and announced in August of that year that India was capable of producing plutonium domestically. Pakistan pointed to this move as a 'major step' in India's own push for nuclear weapons.

In the summer of this year both superpowers issued warnings to Pakistan about that country's nuclear programme. The Soviet Ambassador in Islamabad delivered a message saying that the USSR would not tolerate the acquisition of nuclear weapons by Pakistan. In July, the US warned that it would cut off military and economic assistance to Pakistan if that country were to build nuclear weapons.

Both India and Pakistan have strong incentives to remain just below the nuclear threshold. It seems likely, however, that each is keeping the option open by attempting to acquire all the capabilities and components required for the production of atomic bombs; neither wants to be caught off-guard.

This is my last issue as editor of *Peace & Security*. Taking over from me will be **Michael Bryans** who brings an impressive range of skills to the job. He has just completed a year at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government studying international affairs and public administration. Prior to that he spent twelve years working at the NFB where most recently he took part in the creation and development of the Gwynne Dyer WAR series. He produced two of the episodes and served as contributing editor of the book based on the series.

Dianne DeMille
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■ *Peace and Security* is published quarterly to let Canadians know what the Institute is doing and to provide a forum for the full range of Canadian viewpoints on these issues. Opinions expressed in each article are the sole responsibility of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the Institute and its Board of Directors. Your letters are welcome.

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Second Class Mail Registration
Pending. Postage paid in Ottawa.

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Design and Production:

The Spencer Francey Group,
Ottawa/Toronto

Translation:

Denis Bastien, Sogestran Inc.

ISSN 0831-1846

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