

**Disarm now**

by Doug Coupar

*Safe and Sound: Disarmament and Development in the Eighties*, by Clyde Sanger. Deneau Publishers, Ottawa, 122 pages, \$8.95.

First and foremost, *Safe and Sound* is a catalogue of squandered resources. It's probably the most accurate picture available of world military expenditures — and Sanger is not just talking about cash. He details lost labor, land, raw materials, research skills, industrial capacities and so on.

But the author didn't do it all by himself. The book is a popular, condensed version of the United Nations' 1981 report on the relationship between disarmament and development. Nearly 100 researchers in 20 countries, plus 27 scholars, diplomats and politicians contributed to the report. As a writer who has worked closely with the top international development agencies, Sanger brings a refreshing hands-on approach to the whole business of explaining UN conclusions to the public.

It should be no surprise that books of this nature are in demand. The chairman of the UN Group on Disarmament and Development, Inga Thorsson, prefaces *Safe and Sound* with an ominous warning: "The . . . militarisation of states and their accumulation of vast resources of destruction are of such magnitude that the survival of this generation of mankind is at stake. This has driven me . . . to give voice to the pessimistic prophecy that if no dramatic breakthrough in disarmament negotiations is achieved in the 1980s, the prospect of our surviving this century without a nuclear war is very bleak." Thorsson's prediction more-or-less sums up the peace movement's moral appeal for an immediate end to the arms race. It's based on that most human instinct: survival.

But Sanger takes a different tack. He once told me that "winding down" the arms spiral is the most realistic way to discuss solutions. While he's not unsympathetic to the peace marchers, he prefers to embrace the concrete alternatives of military conversion and redirected public spending. In fact, Sanger is one of the few people who could probably reverse the thinking of the most hardened military industrialist. He becomes totally animated when talking about the sheer profitability of a new international economic order — an important consequence for the many corporations that are currently dependent on the arms markets.

And that's what his book is all about. Not exactly a blueprint for getting out of the crisis, but a logical argument for step-by-step change on the global level. The author is asking the reader to take a head-over-heart look at what can be done . . . "Politicians the world over need to be persuaded by strong arguments before they will acknowledge that they cannot afford to spend so much on certain programs. Their job, after all, is to spend the taxpayers' money — and they are judged on how wisely they do it. So, if their political will is to be engaged in reversing the arms race, it is important that they should be convinced that it is economic and strategic folly to continue increasing military expenditure."

Of course, Sanger focuses on the United Nations as the place "where norms can be set for the reallocation of disarmament savings," but the fact remains that it's ultimately in the hands of the United States and the Soviet Union. The diplomatic efforts of countries like Canada, or the Non-Aligned Movement or the Western European nations have only had short-term effects so far. Since US President Ronald Reagan is a key player in the mix, talk of "disarmament savings" seems almost ludicrous. With the defeat of Jimmy Carter, most foreign affairs observers acknowledge that East-West negotiations took a definite step backwards. For example, it's said that Washington's existing offers of mutual restriction of some military deployment appear to stem primarily from the fear that nations such as the Federal Republic of Germany may further back away from US war preparations in that part of the world.

*Safe and Sound* advances axis analysis like that by describing a new pattern of strategic interdependence: "Now there are levers of power . . . in many parts of the world, and we are all intricately wired together. This . . . is a source of hope."

If policymakers in the developed world begin to grasp the futility of swimming against the tide, Clyde Sanger's optimism may prove to be well-founded.

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**Selling abroad**

by B.A. Sulzenko

*International Marketing Data and Statistics, 1982 (Seventh Edition) and European Marketing Data and Statistics, 1982 (Eighteenth Edition)*. Euromonitor Publications Ltd., London, 354 and 359 pages respectively, \$170.00 (US) each.

*International Marketing Data and Statistics* and its companion volume, *European Marketing Data and Statistics*, published by Euromonitor Publications Limited of London, are, as their titles suggest, reference manuals for economic and business research practitioners. These are not books with which users will generally choose to curl up in bed at night for a good read. In fact there is no written text.

The International and European volumes are made up of some 137 and 234 tables of statistical material respectively. The tables cover relevant market information on 132 countries of the Americas, Africa, Asia, and Australasia, and 30 European countries. The subject areas include general economic indicators, population, employment, production, trade, housing, health and education, communications, travel — with more detailed analysis, particularly of consumer goods markets, in the European volume.

The data in each table are arrayed in country groupings, e.g. the Americas, to facilitate comparisons between