

Media & Warfare Conference

by SEAN M. MALONEY

With unprecedented power, broadcast and print media form most people's perceptions of this world, past and present. These perceptions are important when a government decides on courses of action that affect the lives and livelihoods of its people. In the aftermath and re-assessment of U.S. involvement in Indochina, the media's role in armed conflict came under increasing scrutiny. What this role should be is still the object of debate and this has led to the examination of the role of media in conflicts past and present.

This ongoing debate is the subject of an international conference, **The Media and Modern Warfare**. This conference is to be held at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton from 30 Sept. to 1 Oct. Organized by the University of New Brunswick's Centre For Conflict Studies, this conference is intended to be a unique learning experience in a field that could use more exposure in the academic and military worlds. According to David Charters, conference chairman and director of the Centre For Conflict Studies, the thrust of the conference will be twofold. "One will be to have several

papers that examine actual experiences of different forms of media coverage in particular conflicts, such as combat photography in World War II or television coverage in Vietnam...in addition to that experimental approach, there will be a series of thematic or functional papers which will examine, for example, the questions of access to sources, the military generally in providing information, training public affairs offices and the like."

The conference's keynote address will be given by Max Hastings, Editor of the London Daily Telegraph and an experienced war correspondent. Mr. Hastings is well known for co-authoring *Battle For The Falklands*, an account of his experiences in that campaign. The final session of the conference will be a theme panel entitled "Interpreting the Battlefield: The Soldier, The Journalist, The Historian." Former director of the Centre For Conflict Studies, Maurice Tugwell, will serve as rapporteur and address a number of issues that will inevitably be raised during the course of the

conference. Response will come from a panel consisting of Dr. A.S. Cochrane of the Center of Military History in Washington, D.C., an experienced military historian and a veteran of the Vietnam War; Mr. Ben Greenhouse, a Canadian military historian from the Department of National Defence's Directorate of Military History and author of the superb *Second World War Out of the Shadows*, and Ross Ingram, a local broadcaster who has covered military affairs. All sessions will include open discussion from the floor. The conference is open to participation by anyone who is interested. Student registra-

tion fee is \$5.00/per day. Non-student registration fee is \$50.00 and copies of the papers will be made available for a cost of \$2.00 each. Alternatively, participants may choose to pay a single fee of \$70.00, which covers registration and all conference documents. Deadline for registration is Monday, 26 Sept.

To register or to get more information about the conference, contact the Centre For Conflict Studies, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, N.B., E3B 5A3. Tel: (506) 453-4587. History and Political Science students are strongly encouraged to attend.

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prisoner, it makes a difference to that person or their family, to know that someone is working on their behalf."

"When the first 200 letters arrived, the guards gave me back my clothes. Then, 200 more arrived and the director of the prison paid me a visit. With the arrival of another pile of letters, the director conferred with his superior. The

letters continued to pour in: there were 3000 in all. That's when the president was informed. But the flood of letters continued everyday and, finally, the President telephoned the prison and gave the order to set me free."

A prisoner of conscience liberated in the Dominican Republic.

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