

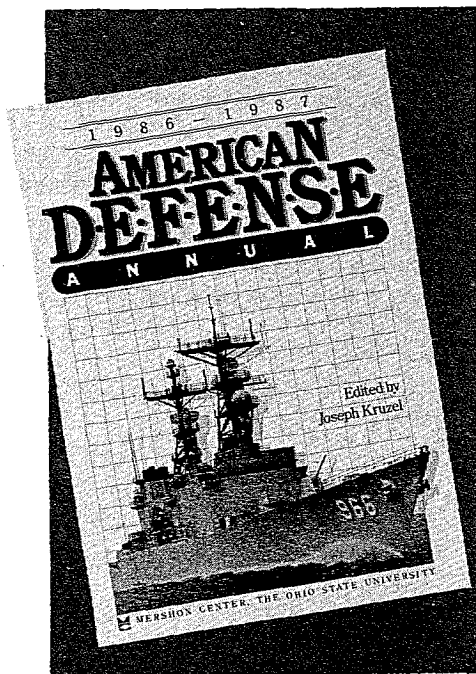
Book Reviews

Essays on Defence

by James Macintosh

American Defense Annual 1986-1987 edited by Joseph Kruzal
Toronto: D.C. Heath Canada Ltd.,
1986, 293 pages, \$44.75.

The *American Defense Annual* (1986-87) contains eleven discrete chapters of generally good quality, all dealing with particular aspects of US defence policy in 1985. These chapters include Kruzal's able overview, Robert Komer's good overall discussion of US defence



strategy, Lawrence Korb's educational examination of the defence budget, Colin Gray's typically controversial analysis of strategic forces, Anthony Cordesman's solid discussion of theater forces, Harry Train's examination of seapower, David Segal's treatment of personnel issues, Jacques Gansler's informative analysis of the weapons procurement process, and Paul Nitze's surprisingly ordinary review of arms control issues. There are, in addition, two special supplements (Roy Godson's discussion of intelligence policy and Lester Brown's consideration of "new dimensions of national security"). There are also two appendixes (a defence chronology for 1985 and

worldwide US force deployments in 1986) and a useful list of defence publications.

Overall, the coverage of this policy-oriented review is thorough, competent and moderately conservative. The basic theme of the chapters is the need to exercise clear thinking as well as moderation in both defence planning and spending, given the re-emerging environment of fiscal restraint.

There are no real surprises in any of the chapters although several deserve special mention. Gray's examination of strategic forces is particularly interesting, covering the range of issues in considerable detail. Although one may not always agree with Gray's policy prescriptions, his analyses are usually penetrating and accurate. In this case, he is correctly critical of the Reagan administration's atheoretical policymaking. Cordesman's review of conventional force defence issues is also a solid contribution, again focusing on incipient problems with American force structure and commitments. Also thought-provoking is Brown's discussion of new dimensions of national security. He directs our attention to a series of less obvious but important issues associated with the broader costs of perilously high defence spending that may well undermine or even destroy superpower and world economies in the near future. This is a useful, interesting and worthwhile contribution to the annual review literature.

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Conscience of the world

by Tom Sloan

Amnesty International Report 1986 by Amnesty International Publications. London: 1986, 386 pages, \$10.00.

This bulky volume, dealing primarily with events that occurred in 1985, is in the best tradition of Amnesty International. It coolly, impartially and

implacably describes in detail some aspects of man's inhumanity to man during a brief time-span in the history of that inhumanity. It does not raise its voice; it chronicles. And it is all the more effective — and horrifying — for that reason.

Apart from an unconditional opposition to the death penalty anywhere, at any time, for any reason, Amnesty International, as it constantly reminds us, is unideological. Its concern is with the fate of thousands of victims of governments, no matter what religious and political ideologies they profess.

In this latest annual Report, there are 128 nations mentioned. Unlike the 1985 Report — which included allegations of torture in Montreal's Archambeault prison — this one contains no mention of Canada. As for the United States, the entry is devoted to the executions of convicted criminals, and possible miscarriages of justice in several criminal trials.

In the case of dozens of other countries around the world, the allegations are much more serious. The picture that emerges is one of a world full of nations governed by regimes to which it is quite normal to imprison, torture and murder their own citizens for having opinions that differ from those of the government of the day.

In places, the arbitrary abuse of power can take bizarre twists. The entry on the African country of Malawi, for example, tells the story of three journalists arrested in March 1985, and still imprisoned at the end of the year. The Report notes: "The reason for their detention appears to be a report . . . [of] a speech by the country's Official Hostess . . . during a meeting on women and development. The Daily Times reported Cecilia Kadzamira as saying 'Man cannot do without woman.' . . . It appeared that the remark was deemed offensive to Life President Hastings Banda, who is a bachelor. On the day the press reports of the speech appeared [the three journalists] . . . were arrested."

While the case of Malawi is among the strangest, the contest for the cruelest regime in the world would be close, with many governments, especially in Africa and Latin America, in the running.

The Report's catalogue of barbarity is long and dismaying. But it is a necessary reminder of present political realities. While Amnesty International is recognized by the United Nations and has