

PEACE&SECURITY

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



■ At the end of December, Canada came to the end of its two-year term on the United Nations Security Council. During that time the world passed from one epoch – the period of frozen history and predictable future we call the Cold War – to we know not what. For at least a year, the Security Council has been at the centre of that alternately exhilarating and troubling transformation.

The editors of *Peace&Security* see it as the mandate of the magazine to venture behind the daily headlines and beyond tomorrow's battles to identify problems and issues that are not necessarily grist for the mass media which has, after all,

a different job to do. With one of the central issues of Gulf War debate in Canada being the function and legitimacy of the United Nations, specifically the Security Council, *Peace&Security* gathered together a group of individuals from various countries and with different perspectives. We asked them to look critically at how the UN Security Council machinery has functioned in recent months, tell us what the lessons from that experience might be, and how they could be used to improve the peace and security functions of the United Nations. Without any prompting the discussion quickly turned to the phrase "new world order," what it meant or, indeed, whether it had any meaning at all. The result of this discussion is our cover story.

■ One might conclude, judging from the daily content of our newspapers and television since mid-January, that there were three countries on the planet – the US, Kuwait and you know where. We have two stories that contain barely a mention of "the Gulf." The first is by our frequent contributor on Asian affairs, **G erard Hervouet**, on the interminable wrangling over a possible settlement of the Cambodian conflict, an ordeal for the Cambodian people that has lasted seventeen

years. The other is by **Sharon Stevenson**, a freelance writer and resident of Lima, Peru on the new president's various wars against internal corruption, domestic insurrection, external debt and the destructive international commerce in narcotics.

■ Our feature stories do not neglect the Gulf War entirely. **Chris Smith**, a writer and academic in the field of arms sales to Third World countries, speculates on what might seem to be paradoxical implications of the war for arms sales. Finally, in addition to his survey of Canadian attitudes to the world and international issues in general, **Don Munton**, in *From Paardeberg to the Persian Gulf*, gives us an historical perspective to consider on Canadians' opinions of Canada's wars. And where is Paardeberg anyway?

On 18 February 1900, Canadian soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment, fought a small battle with a Boer army near the village of Paardeberg, Orange Free State, in South Africa. It was the first time Canadians had fought a battle outside Canada. Ninety-one years later, almost to the day, Canadians found themselves again at war far away from home.

– Michael Bryans

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Canada and the Transformation of the East European Economies: Policy Challenges of the 1990s, by Carl McMillan, Background Paper 35, 8 pages, October 1990.

Surveillance over Canada, by George Lindsey and Gordon Sharpe, Working Paper 31, 81 pages.

Indian Naval Expansion, by Paul George, Working Paper 32, 50 pages.

The Commonwealth, Factsheet 15, January 1991.

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