

## Book Reviews

pered by the significant regional differentiation in the domestic impacts of the trade and investment which are at the heart of Canadian interests in the Pacific. If the private sector is left to pioneer and promote Canada's participation in the region's development, one wonders how successful these efforts will be in the face of stronger and more coordinated competitors based elsewhere. The implications of the book's common theme, "that Pacific cooperation must be fostered by nongovernmental groups," should promote concern and attention in Canada.

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### Avoiding beastliness with South Africa

by Douglas Anglin

*Canadian Relations with South Africa: A Diplomatic History* by Brian Douglas Tennyson. Washington: University Press of America, 1982, 237 pages, \$26.95 (hard), \$12.95 (soft).

The steady deterioration in Canada's relations with South Africa over the past two decades makes it easy to overlook the degree of personal and political intimacy that characterized the intergovernmental relationship during the opening two decades of this century. The delineation of this "special relationship" between Laurier and Botha, Borden and Smuts and, to a limited extent, Mackenzie King and Hertzog constitutes the most interesting and revealing contribution of this painstaking recital of the uneven course of diplomatic interaction between the two "least-British" dominions. Professor Tennyson's study begins with the conquest of the two South African republics in the Anglo-Boer War, and carries the story up to 1961 with the reincarnation of the Republic of South Africa — and its departure from the Commonwealth. A brief Epilogue traces developments in subsequent years, especially Canada's agonizing efforts to avoid facing up to the realities of the South African situation.

For much of the period covered, the substance of the liaison was not so much bilateral as a shared interest in transforming the imperial relationship. Even after the struggle for dominion status had been won, constitutional issues, such as the protracted controversy over the status of their respective diplomatic representatives, continued to dominate what little remained of the relationship. Even the final confrontation in 1961, when Prime Minister Diefenbaker's courage and vision overruled the inbred caution of the Department of External Affairs, centred on the nature of the modern Commonwealth and, significantly, had only a limited impact on subsequent Canadian policy towards South African racialism in the United Nations and elsewhere.

The author has been assiduous in seeking extensive interviews and mining numerous private papers in archives in Canada, Britain and South Africa. He also had access to

confidential files in the Department of External Affairs. As a result, his account not only carries conviction but includes many fascinating little revelations. We are told, for instance, how wartime censors exposed a conspiracy between Albert Herzog (since 1969, leader of the ultra-right *Herstigte Nasionale Party*) and the South African representative in Ottawa to promote Nazi propaganda in the United States. Even more disturbing is the assessment of South African blacks by the Canadian High Commissioner in Pretoria in 1944; they were, he claimed, "perfectly dumb and appear to have little brain capacity" (p. 116).

This book is explicitly a diplomatic history. Accordingly, it confines its discussion of economic relations with South Africa largely to an Appendix on the grounds that "they have never been an important factor in determining Canadian policy" (p. 193). Nor is there any mention of the pervasive and sustained disinformation campaigns conducted in Canada by the South African Foundation (which assisted the author financially in his research) and the South African Embassy (whose misleading advertisements help support this journal).<sup>\*</sup> Despite these limitations, the monograph is greatly to be welcomed as an authoritative and informative study of a significant and neglected theme in Canadian external relations.

<sup>\*</sup> Reference is to advertisement appearing in the July/August, 1982, issue of *International Perspectives*; Ed.

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### A peacekeeping success

by Brian M. Murphy

*From Rhodesia to Zimbabwe: The Politics of Transition* by Henry Wiseman and Alastair Taylor. New York: Pergamon Press for the International Peace Academy, 1981, 171 pages, \$US20.00 (hard) \$US9.95 (paper).

International peacekeeping is a messy and thankless business. Since the United Nations adopted Lester Pearson's suggestion there have been many failures. The bright spots have been tinged with bitterness or lost to public scrutiny in the folds of face-saving diplomacy.

Now Henry Wiseman and Alastair Taylor say they have found an unmitigated success. The settlement which brought about Zimbabwe fulfills all the requirements. Conducted before an audience of invited foreign observers, it was well planned, enjoyed the support of all parties, took a strident pace pushing controversy before it, allowed real authority to peacekeeping forces, and concluded with elections which, say the authors, were "free and fair under the circumstances."

The whole process confirmed the efficacy of the peacekeeping concept and showed that the international com-