

information sharing. This is the Canadian value added to the "war on terrorism." Frigates to the Indian Ocean may not be the best Canadian value added, nor the best use of our limited resources.

We need to be aware, as well, of policy opportunists in the U.S. and in Canada who are taking advantage of the September 11<sup>th</sup> events and policy climate. These include proponents of vast public spending on improbable security threats (i.e., a Ballistic Missile attack from North Korea) and proponents of other policy initiatives (i.e., Dollarisation and further North American economic integration) that have nothing to do with September 11<sup>th</sup> needs and might well be deeply harmful to Canada's interests.

Strategically, it is time for a new Canada-U.S. "Grand Bargain" for information sharing and to define our own national areas of public policy outside pressures for harmonisation.

An important question regarding the war in Afghanistan is yet to be assessed by Canadians: Is the threat of recurrent terrorism sufficient to warrant a large-scale military action? Moreover, are the military tactics used in Afghanistan justified and exportable to other countries that shield terrorists? One participant pointed out that the military action was necessary to remove the shield from behind which a terrorist network recruits, trains and operates. The attack on the Taliban regime might have been key in achieving this objective. Others said that short term fixes (i.e., destroying the Taliban regime, killing Osama bin Laden) are unlikely to reduce the terrorist threat, may cause a backlash in the Middle East against the "West," and may lull Americans into a false sense of security. Long term efforts, beyond a military intervention, aimed at redressing historical grievances and improving the living conditions of the most marginalised people in the world are much more likely to enhance global security and peace.

The dilemma of using military force against a sovereign state to fight the "war on terrorism" extends beyond the war in Afghanistan. Are Canada and other Coalition members ready to fight in Iraq? When pondering this scenario, one should keep in mind the devastating effects of sanctions on the Iraqi population. A U.S.-led intervention would not likely receive much military and political local support and could backfire. There is also a question of lasting public support for Canada's military involvement, especially for missions beyond Afghanistan.

Some pointed out that the key to peace and security in the Middle East lies in resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Others said that the conflict is being used by Islamic fundamentalists to justify their actions and if peace were to break out they would simply find another "just cause." While helping to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a worthy goal in and of itself, peace will likely not prevent terrorism. One participant suggested that Canada needs to re-examine its role in the Middle East nonetheless. For example, how Canada handles pressure from the U.S. and from some domestic constituencies to support Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon (who is by no means a moderate) will test Canada's credibility in the region.

Besides security and foreign policy, other spheres have been affected by September 11,