

International Perspectives

THE CANADIAN JOURNAL ON WORLD AFFAIRS

International Perspectives is a journal of independent opinion on world affairs. It takes no editorial position. The opinions expressed are those of the authors. It is published in Canada six times a year by Baxter Publishing.

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Subscriptions:
In Canada:
One year (six issues): \$25
Three years (eighteen issues): \$60

Other Countries:
Same as above, in US funds.
Additional charge for airmail
delivery upon request.

Editorial and subscriptions:
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ISSN 0381-4874
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Second Class Mail
Registration Number 4949

International Perspectives is indexed in
the Canadian Periodical Index, Current
Content and PAIS Bulletin.

A Baxter Publication

Editor's Note:

Saving the environment without sacrificing economic development; reforming military institutions while keeping defensive credibility intact: those are two themes present in this issue of International Perspectives. The attempt to stop the race to ecological destruction has become a crusade with our Minister of the Environment, Tom McMillan, and we have one of his eloquent statements on our global peril. In a related article Jim MacNeill ponders some of the issues that arose during his 3-year tenure as Secretary General of the World Commission on Development and Environment. One achievement of the Brundtland Commission was to discover that not only were environmental protection and economic development not incompatible, they were actually symbiotic (at least in one direction).

The armed forces of the Soviet Union are not being spared in Gorbachev's pursuit of reform, as the military establishment is put through the agonies of reexamining its job and how it organizes itself to do it. David Jones of Dalhousie University gives us a glimpse of what that means. On the Western side, it is the alliance itself that attracts the reforming zeal of Operation Ploughshares' Simon Rosenblum, who sees a way to improve world security by making defence defensive rather than offensive. His observations apply equally to both pacts, East and West.

An accumulation of books about the Free Trade agreement with the United States has been examined by Mitchell Sharp — no newcomer to free trade musings — who finds some weaknesses in the way Canadians are carrying on their debate about trade policy and its relation to national independence and identity.

The Third World is now sufficiently established as a field of study to have spawned many schools and institutes in Canada, attracted scholars and students, and now, the attention of the "studier" of "studies." In an essay on the "state of the art" José Havet of the University of Ottawa presents his findings.

Africa is daily reconfirming its status as the Third World area in most need of successful development, as scheme after scheme goes awry. There must and may be new ways to hope — even to do something — according to Daryl Copeland, a Canadian diplomat in Ethiopia.

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