

minded states, NGOs and the UN is not clearly defined, it often functions as a catalyst for UN action.¹ With this theoretical context in mind, Cooper signalled the topics for the two-day conference: UN leadership and the emergence of codes of conduct.

Ramesh Thakur drew attention to an article in the *International Herald Tribune* by Joseph Fitchett on the need for the French Diplomats "to go back to school." In his article, Fitchett reports that the French government decided to introduce reforms on the lines of the American and British traditions of cooperation between policymakers and independent research institutes. Bureaucrats are being asked to abandon a uniquely French approach to foreign policy and learn how to cope with new challenges posed by a more competitive and globalised world. A report commissioned by the French Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin, states that France needs to perform better in handling the new tools of international influence, often described as "soft power," which involve the use of communications and networking among research institutes and other non-governmental bodies. Ramesh Thakur pointed out that this trend reflects the recent shift in the international system from traditional (i.e., high *versus* low politics issues) and top-down leadership toward an emphasis on "soft power" approaches and horizontal modes of governance. While we should capitalise on the changing nature of foreign policy, many questions, including how to explain the success of the Ottawa process, remain unanswered, he said. There is a need to establish a closer relationship between bureaucracies and think tanks. New Diplomacy issues nor the nature of the process have been entrenched yet within the "established" international institutions and regimes.

2. UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTIONS AND THE GLOBAL COMPACT I: CANADA AT THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL

Paul Heinbecker (Assistant Deputy Minister, Global and Security Policy/Canadian Ambassador Designate to the United Nations) outlined the Canadian experience with human security at the UN Security Council. He said that the shift to less state-centric approaches is apparent not only at the UN, but also at the G-8. The agenda and outcome of the G-8 meeting in Miyazaki, Japan, clearly pointed to this development with human security issues such as firearms, the illegal diamond trade, and war-affected children, at the forefront. While the French public sector may need to go back to school, there is a need for improvement in Canada as well, he said. While some useful reforms have taken place, including the work of the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development, even more should be done to develop a closer relationship between policy makers and the public.

¹For further theoretical elaboration of New Diplomacy see the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development, *Report from the Conference on New Diplomacy: the United Nations, Like-minded Countries and Non-governmental Organisations (September 28 - 30, 1999, Millcroft Inn, Ontario, Canada)*.