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■ At first glance our two lead articles by **Desmond Morton** and **Lawrence Freedman** would seem to have little in common. One is wholly devoted to Canadian concerns with fashioning a defence policy when there is a dearth of both money and identifiable enemies; the other leads the reader through the complex (and acronym-ridden) terrain of Europe's half dozen or so multilateral organizations, and how they might be used to cope with Europe's dramatically redefined security problem. Yet, these writers are in fact dealing with different parts of the same puzzle: what do governments do when the essential

principles that have guided their international policies for forty-five years vanish almost overnight? As Professor Freedman writes, NATO planners without a sense of Soviet power "would become wholly disoriented."

Both of the lead articles in this issue of *Peace & Security* were written before August's momentous events in Moscow, yet the coup and its aftermath only add to their relevance. As this issue goes to press there are startling announcements from various corners of the Soviet Union almost hourly. Some, like the implosion of the Soviet Communist Party, the mass secession by republics from the Union, and the wholesale purge of the upper echelons of the Soviet armed forces, would lead one to suspect that NATO's bureaucrats are going to be needing new compasses sooner rather than later. Others, like the disturbing dictatorial streak that some observers see in Russia's president Boris Yeltsin, and that scary, and unverifiable story that the Soviet Union's nuclear missile launch codes went astray during the coup, would seem to lend weight to Desmond Morton's contention that the best defence policy is one that expects the unexpected.

■ Also in this issue: **Thomas Weiss** runs down a list of contenders for the UN's top job and wonders if there isn't a better way to choose Secretaries-General; Ottawa political writer **Charlotte Gray** re-assesses some of the domestic soul-searching about war and peace that went on through the Persian Gulf crisis; **Paul Marantz** explains the motivations for the abortive putsch in Moscow and how the grey men who launched it helped accelerate precisely those changes they sought to avoid; Middle East analyst and frequent commentator on various Canadian media throughout the Persian Gulf crisis, **Janice Gross Stein**, contributes the first of what we hope will be a series of essays by different writers in *Peace & Security* weighing the long-term implications of this conflict; **Michael McIvor** writes of his experience covering the ongoing famine emergency in Sudan for CBC Radio; **Rychard Brûlé** tells us what is supposed to happen — before the end of 1991 if luck holds — to finally end the drawn-out conflict over the future of Western Sahara; and **Gabrielle Mathieu** sets out the crowded agenda for La Francophonie's next summit meeting in Paris in November. — **Michael Bryans**

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