

interdependence and the security concerns flowing from it are also increasing. The concept of national security is no longer confined to national political sovereignty. Nationally and internationally, there is a need for governments to take a more systematic approach to addressing environmental stress-national security issues. This includes problem identification, the requirement to anticipate emerging environmental stresses, and the analysis of how such stress may become factored into national security interests.

In Canada, at the political level, recent attention has been directed at the concept of national security. The Special Joint Committee of Parliament reviewing Canadian foreign policy reached some conclusions that recognized that not only is domestic and foreign policy becoming increasingly blurred, but that the various elements of foreign policy are interdependent, and that interdisciplinary approaches are required if national security policy making is to be effective.⁴⁶

"The Committee is convinced of the need to adopt a broader concept of security, encompassing both military and non-military factors. The Committee further recommends that this concept be reflected both in the establishment of a high-level government mechanism, such as a Cabinet committee, and in a restructuring of the relevant Standing Committees of Parliament, in order to ensure that the various elements of security are addressed in an integrated manner."⁴⁷

At the national level, the myriad issues encompassed by the environment-national security interface may pose bureaucratic management problems in many countries. The various facets of the issue, political, environment, social, military (only touched upon in this Paper), are truly mind-boggling. The issue of national security always raises the question of the role of national intelligence services, and the environment-security nexus is no exception. In theory, it would appear that there is a legitimate role for intelligence organizations. Environmental factors clearly may generate security concerns. Yet, in practice, intelligence organizations may not possess the appropriate skills, and face institutional barriers (such as restricted mandates or interdepartmental rivalry) to develop or acquire the appropriate resources, inhibiting their capacity to address the linkage between environmental and security issues. Moreover, political-decision makers may be slow to accept, or may even

⁴⁶Report of the Special Joint Committee of the Senate and the House of Commons Reviewing Canadian Foreign Policy, CANADA'S FOREIGN POLICY: Principles and Priorities for the Future, November 1994, Chapter 2, pp. 11-26.

⁴⁷ibid. p. 13.