

Prof. Sokolsky concluded by emphasizing how much the new security agenda was being shaped by one overriding concern, the combatting of international terrorism. "It's as if the Cold War is back, and with it, Cold War type implications are presented to Canada." This, he said, meant that the US would be relying on NATO for political support and legitimacy, and that Canada would find itself "firmly affixed to its seat at the table of the American-dominated Western alliance."

There were two Dutch respondents to Prof. Sokolsky. The first was LGen P. J. M. Godderij (Ministry of Defence [MOD]), who remarked upon the similarities between the two countries' Alliance interests, and reminded everyone that NATO continued to be held together by America's Article 5 commitment to its Allies. Apropos the comment about Canada wishing to be part of any major military operations, Gen. Godderij regretted that Canada "had other priorities" in Afghanistan than participating in the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), deployed to Kabul. But he did remark upon the successful cooperation between Canada, the Netherlands and the UK in Bosnia, with SFOR.

Gen. Godderij emphasized that if the Europeans wanted to enhance their influence within NATO, they would have to develop the capacity to manage peace operations from which the US chose to abstain. Could they do so? Perhaps the lesson of UNMEE suggested they might be able to, and to do so with Canadian involvement. For in the Ethiopian-Eritrean case, both Canada and the Netherlands were able to function well together as the spearhead of a UN-centred "group of friends." Moreover, the Netherlands was able to prevail upon its EU partners to increase their contributions to post-conflict peacebuilding, by getting them to provide more economic assistance. A second "lesson" of UNMEE was that, notwithstanding the obvious reality that Canada would go along with the US most of the time, just as the Netherlands would go along with the EU most of the time, there did remain scope for constructive bilateralism as between the Dutch and the Canadians.

Insofar as concerns the evolution of policy governing peace support operations, Gen. Godderij informed the seminar of some recent reforms introduced in the Netherlands, intended to render more effective such operations. These were prompted by difficulties experienced with the UNPROFOR deployment to Bosnia, especially those associated with the "Srebrenica debacle." Among the objectives of the reform initiative had been to clarify command and control arrangements, and to render as "robust" as possible the rules of engagement.

The second respondent was Dr. Dick Leurdijk (Clingendael), who observed that there were also less positive experiences shared by the two countries (viz. Bosnia and the