

CENTRE FOR CONFLICT STUDIES University of New Brunswick

“The evil that is in the world always comes of ignorance, and good intentions may do as much harm as malevolence, if they lack understanding.”

Thus wrote Albert Camus, French philosopher and author, in his novel, *The Plague*. Few would doubt Canada's good intentions in the realm of international affairs. But what if these are underpinned by public ignorance: how can we avoid doing harm if, as a nation, we lack understanding?

These are the worrying questions that prompted a University of New Brunswick history professor and two conflict analysts together to establish the Centre for Conflict Studies at that university. Through the good offices of the History Department and the University Administration, the Centre came into existence in January 1980. At the end of its first year the Centre had begun to earn a reputation as a source of information and specialist research in low-intensity conflict — all that lies between ordinary crime and full-scale war. It had also started to publish *Conflict Quarterly*, a journal dedicated to international peace and internal harmony.

The underlying strength of the Centre is its information resource. Partly, this exists in the knowledge and experience of the Centre's staff and in the widening circle of scholars in the field across Canada and around the world with whom contacts have been made. Partly, it lies in the technical library and files accumulated by methodical research. The passage of time will turn this data bank into a unique national asset. Already, it has enabled the Centre to complete two research contracts for the public sector, and to embark on a third. Such contracts provide the spur for serious, in-depth research and analysis, as well as being a source of income. All our research is unclassified.

Within the University of New Brunswick, the Centre's facilities are increasingly being used by undergraduates and graduate students. The interdisciplinary nature of such participation can only strengthen our operation. Principals of the Centre take part in conferences and seminars organized by various departments, and we have sponsored two symposiums of our own. In March 1981 the Centre is organizing the first of a series of alternative strategy workshops, dealing with facets of low-intensity conflict. Specialists in the field from several Canadian and American universities, institutes and agencies will take part. Moreover, principals of the Centre are now attending international forums from which Canada has for too long been absent. Inside Canada, we have given lectures, conferences or seminars in British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and in the Maritimes. Because it is our policy to encourage a more thoughtful approach by the news media to the coverage of conflict situations, principals provide as much media assistance as practicable. In our first year we were featured more than one hundred times, often nationally.

The Centre for Conflict Studies, as part of the University of New Brunswick, is a charitable organization and donations are tax deductible. The generosity of corporations and individuals sustained us through our first year. Our contract research will provide one source of future income, but public donations will still be necessary to enable us to expand our public information function.

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**Military History/Conflict Studies
at the University of New Brunswick**

The Graduate Programme on Military History and Conflict Studies, which is expanding at the University of New Brunswick, is offered by the History Department and calls upon the services of the staff of the Centre for Conflict Studies.

Clip this coupon for information:

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*TO: The Director of Graduate Studies
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Please send me information about the Graduate Programme in Military History/Conflict Studies at the University of New Brunswick.

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The Centre for Conflict Studies at the University of New Brunswick is an independent unit, not funded by the government, and only supported by the University for certain administrative overheads. It relies for its continued operations on public and corporate support and its charitable status allows such donations to be tax-deductible. The Centre offers conferences, seminars and presentations, as well as producing *Conflict Quarterly*, and the quality of these operations depends on the research and analysis carried out at the Centre by principals and a widening circle of associates working in the field of low intensity conflict. If you value our contribution to peace and social harmony, please include a voluntary donation with your subscription to the journal.

TO: Elizabeth Harrison
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