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On July 16, 1984, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service formally came into existence. This new civilian agency takes over from the Security Service of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police which has had such a checkered history since the 1940s. The creation of the new service is a significant development for it makes Canada one of the few nations to have a legislated security service. That the birth of the service was slow and anguished reflects the difficulty that an open democracy faces when it tries to legislate such a 'gray area' of government activity.

Yet, this is not the first time Canada has had to grapple with this matter. Peter St. John covers much new ground in an article examining the problems encountered in the establishment of Canada's wartime intelligence capability. The development of a modest intelligence organization during the war gave Canada an entry into the wider allied intelligence community after 1945.

Shortly after the end of the war a Soviet cypher clerk named Igor Gouzenko defected in Ottawa, plunging Canada's nascent intelligence community into the shadowy cold war of counter-espionage against the Soviet Union. The Canadian security service did not always fare well in this battle, raising fears of penetration by a Soviet 'mole.' In 1972 suspicion focused on Leslie James Bennett. He was interrogated and then he resigned from the Security Service. The tangled tale of Canadian efforts against Soviet spies and the questions surrounding the Bennett case were graphically described in John Sawatsky's book, *For Services Rendered*, reviewed for the *Quarterly* by Wesley K. Wark.

The new Canadian government under Prime Minister Mulroney has promised a thorough review of Canada's defence posture. In the last year two observers, Canadian writer Peter C. Newman and British analyst Simon Ollivant, have raised serious questions about Canadian defence efforts. Their works are reviewed in this issue.

The Middle East remains a focus of attention as 1984 draws to a close. The 'Gulf War' between Iran and Iraq has entered its fifth year with no end in sight. Nader Entessar explores external involvement in the war and concludes that there is an urgent need to limit arms transfers to the belligerents in order to forestall escalation which might embroil the superpowers.

As conventional war rages, the fear of nuclear war remains palpable, even if the likelihood of such a war between the superpowers is minimal. The risks posed by nuclear proliferation in the Third World however, do give cause for concern. Femi Otubanjo discusses this problem in the context of the conflict over the future of South Africa. He concludes that nuclear weapons are irrelevant to the struggle; their introduction into the equation by either side would not hasten the pace of 'liberation' and would complicate the process of negotiation.

