

IN THIS ISSUE

International political terrorism continued to grow numerically, and in sophistication, lethality, and casualties, in 1985. Thus far the year has seen anti-NATO terrorism in Western Europe, an Armenian attack on the Turkish embassy in Ottawa, the taking of American and Soviet hostages in Beirut, and the actual and suspected bombings of airliners *en route* from Canada. The month of October alone was remarkable for the terrorist seizure of a cruise ship in the Mediterranean and the capture of the perpetrators in a dramatic aerial interception. And the year is not over yet. Abraham Miller and Michael Gunter discuss, respectively, two of these phenomena: anti-NATO terrorism and transnational support for Armenian terrorism. James Motley caps this issue's focus on terrorism with a review of a recent study of state-sponsored terrorism.

The American capture of the fleeing cruise ship hijackers provided ample evidence of the importance of effective intelligence collection and analysis for counter-terrorist operations. Countering terrorism is one of the missions assigned to the year-old Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS). If the attack in Ottawa and other global trends are any indication, this mission may be the service's busiest. Gerard Rutan surveys the history of Canadian security intelligence, the activities and circumstances which led to reform of the system, and the reform process which culminated in the creation of the CSIS.

Increasingly beset by America-assisted 'Contra' attacks from the outside and internal unrest which takes its inspiration from the Catholic church, the Sandinista regime in October resorted to draconian measures of internal repression to silence dissent. Whether this constitutes a 'predictable step towards inevitable totalitarianism,' as some critics suggest, or merely a response to 'American provocation' is not yet clear. Harold Sims, in his second survey of Nicaraguan relations with the Communist states (the first was published in the Winter 1985 issue), comes out in favour of the latter interpretation. Regardless of perspective, Nicaragua's 'Revolution in the Making' continues to provide scholars with a unique opportunity to observe, analyze and interpret the process of social and political change.

The opinions expressed in the articles, reviews and other contributions are those of the authors alone, and do not necessarily represent those of the Centre for Conflict Studies or of the University of New Brunswick.
