

IN THIS ISSUE

Events in Europe and the Middle East since the beginning of the year have kept the subject of terrorism in the forefront of public awareness. Creating such an awareness, of course, is one of the main objectives of terrorism, and this points to the central role of propaganda in terrorist actions. It is entirely fitting, therefore, that in his final contribution as Director of the Centre, Maurice Tugwell, a recognized authority, should address this seminal subject. Dr. Tugwell discusses the role of propaganda in revolutionary activity, the themes employed by terrorist organizations, and offers some suggestions for democratic governments to counter terrorist propaganda. Dr. Tugwell is stepping down as Director of the Centre this summer to pursue his interests as a freelance writer and consultant.

Steve Bruce examines a different aspect of violent politics. Using the case of Scottish Protestants who mobilized activist groups to support their counterparts in Ulster, he rejects what he calls the "essential criminality" thesis: the notion that, irrespective of expressed motive, some people are naturally predisposed to commit crimes. Instead, he argues that a more accurate assessment of the motives of the Scottish Protestant activists can be found by exploring the social sources of their attitudes towards the Northern Ireland issue and the law.

James Motley and Paul Marantz review, respectively, a study of the war in Lebanon, and two works on Soviet/East-West relations. Finally, this issue includes an updated index to *Conflict Quarterly*, covering volumes IV and V, 1984-85.

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.
