

## IN THIS ISSUE

Recent events in Europe, the Middle East, and particularly in Washington make terrorism a subject of enduring interest. It will be the focus of the first two issues of *Conflict Quarterly* in 1987. The *Quarterly* has been fortunate in being able to select some of the best papers presented at the International Academic Conference on Terrorism, held at the University of Aberdeen in April 1986. The Editor wishes to express his gratitude to conference organizer Paul Wilkinson for his assistance in selecting and preparing the manuscripts for publication. Together with other articles, these manuscripts examine some of the most interesting and intellectually challenging aspects of the study of terrorism.

This issue opens with Nicholas Berry's essay which attempts to explain why terrorism works. He offers five theories and hypotheses, and concludes that it is the target's performance that determines whether or not terrorism is effective. Terrorism works only if the target ensures that it does, by behaving in a way that weakens the target's own position. Sabri Sayari examines the generational changes in the left-wing terrorist movement from 1970 to 1980. He observes that some generational changes — replacement of jailed or dead leaders, commitment to action over ideas — mirrored patterns observed in Western European groups. The principal contrast is that of scale: the size of the movement in Turkey dwarfed those of Western Europe. He concludes with the sobering observation that the thousands of imprisoned Turkish terrorists remain 'unrehabilitated,' and that the prisons are likely to remain breeding and recruiting grounds for future generation of terrorists.

Bowman Miller argues that careful reading and analysis of what terrorists say and write can reveal unique and essential data, which can then be used to assess or perhaps anticipate their intentions and actions. Using a series of communiqués issued by the West German Red Army Faction, Miller identifies the principal themes the RAF uses to justify its actions, reveals how the RAF sees itself, and illustrates the weaknesses in its political/tactical method — particularly its inability to communicate its message in a way that would attract and mobilize a mass following. This, he believes, demonstrates the value of textual content and linguistic analysis. Bruce Warner regards the decision of the Irish government to extradite accused Irish terrorists to Britain as a milestone in Anglo-Irish relations as well as an example of progress in international cooperation against terrorism. He examines the historical background to the extradition issue, the application of British and Irish positions since the outbreak of violence in 1969, some recent extradition cases, and indicators of future policy. The recent election of Charles Haughey, an outspoken opponent of extradition, as Irish prime minister lends weight to Warner's admonition against excessive optimism concerning the future of the Anglo-Irish extradition arrangement.

In our last issue, we asked our readers to take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire at the back of the journal. If you have not yet had the opportunity, please take a moment to do so. The information we

receive will help to determine future policies for *Conflict Quarterly* regarding such items as subjects to be covered, price, advertising, etc. Thank you for your cooperation.

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