

IN THIS ISSUE

As this issue went to press, the "Arias" plan, the most recent attempt to forge a regional peace settlement for Central America, was off to a shaky start and is facing an uncertain future. Skeptics and critics point to the many intractable issues that confront the antagonists and which may derail the peace process. In this regard, it may be instructive to review similar efforts in the past, and to this end Harold Sims and Vilma Petrash examine the "Contadora" effort, which foundered on some of the same obstacles that conspire to wreck the Arias plan.

The Gulf War continues to be a center of tension and attention, particularly with respect to its impact on merchant shipping and the flow of oil. Largely overlooked in analysis of the conflict is the Kurdish dimension. Ali Borovali traces the history of Kurdish insurgencies in the region, their place in Iran-Iraqi relations, the shifting allegiances associated with the war, and the impact of these factors on Turkish regional policies. The Turkish government is concerned about the dual threat of Islamic extremism inside Turkey and Iranian-backed Kurdish insurgency in northern Iraq and along Turkey's southeastern frontier. This dimension of the Gulf War clearly warrants attention by Western strategic analysts.

When discussion turns to Soviet-bloc espionage, attention is usually focussed on the Soviet services, the KGB and the GRU. But, as J.A. Emerson Vermaat points out, of the satellite services, the East German HVA ranks as the most efficient and hence, as a force to be reckoned with. His article describes the structure of the HVA and the extent and significance of its operations in West Germany. He concludes with a warning that the era of "glasnost" will not necessarily bring about a reduction in the scale of Soviet or East German espionage operations.

Finally, the scholarly and specialist literature on terrorism has experienced phenomenal growth over the last decade. Indeed, the volume of publication has vastly outstripped the *Quarterly's* ability to review individual titles. Yet the subject is central to the field of low intensity conflict studies and could not be ignored. With this in mind, the Executive Editor has compiled a survey of recent literature, with a view to drawing attention to the salient works on the subject. He discusses bibliographies and research guides, the seminal writings, and the published research which reflects the major issues and schools of thought. The survey is scarcely exhaustive, covering as it does only a few hundred out of thousands of publications. However, scholars and other researchers may find it a useful reference source that indicates some of the strengths and weaknesses of the current state of research on terrorism.

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.
