

BOOK REVIEWS

Ball, Desmond. *A Base for Debate: The US satellite station at Nurrungar*. Sydney: Allen and Unwin, 1987.

Ball, Desmond. *Pine Gap: Australia and the US geostationary signals intelligence satellite program*. Sydney: Allen and Unwin, 1988.

Journalists in recent months have discussed that high resolution satellite photographs are available as a commercial product from France and the USSR, and with this small revelation the general public has been given another one of those fleeting informational glimpses towards an understanding of the dimensions of contemporary intelligence gathering, allowing the gap between general knowledge and expert opinion to lessen, at least temporarily.

Professor Desmond Ball of the Australian National University in Canberra has closed the information gap still further by providing the lay reader with these two volumes of very readable expert information regarding aerial intelligence gathering. For some time three of the dozen or so American bases in Australia—Pine Gap, Nurrungar and the North West Cape—have been points of political and ideological contention among Australians, as much from the lack of an accurate description of their functions as for the fact that these foreign communications posts have been located on Australian soil. The operational presence of these particular bases was not officially acknowledged until 1984 and a committed effort to have them removed continues to serve as an article of faith within the left wing of the Australian Labor Party (ALP).

However, the current impetus of SDI has modified the confrontational atmosphere surrounding these three bases and arguments for "monitoring" rather than "early warning" seem to have changed the nature of the debate. In June 1988 the Australian Prime Minister, Robert Hawke, instructed a national convention of the ALP that in the cause of international peace its left wing members would have to discard their antiquated arguments against the US bases. This has been followed in November by the Hawke government again renewing the leases of the three bases.

Each of the two books mentioned here is effectively part of a trilogy—the third due to appear in 1989—and each segment examines one of the three controversial American bases, assessing their differing functions within the scope of Australian-American defence and intelligence interaction. *The Australian Government has not publicly differentiated between the functions of Pine Gap and Nurrungar, however, as Ball states, although Nurrungar is not publicized as such, it is within the USA an officially acknowledged operational unit within the US Defense Support Program (DSP). The facility at Pine Gap on the other hand, is a ground control station within the CIA's satellite intelligence*

gathering system; a situation for which complete secrecy to the point of anonymity and journalistic invisibility would be preferred. However, the verification of arms control agreements, brought on by SDI, has now increased the overt as well as the covert value of Pine Gap's capabilities.

Both of these books provide the reader with a well documented and clearly presented description of the particular installation in question as well as providing reproductions of the texts of bilateral agreements and other supporting documents. These books are equalling well recommended either as initial references or as background reading for those interested in the fields of international relations, arms control or intelligence related areas.

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Alex P. Schmid and Albert J. Jongman. *Political Terrorism; A New Guide to Actors, Authors, Concepts, Data Bases, Theories and Literature*. Amsterdam: SWIDOC, and New Brunswick: Transaction Books (for the Western Hemisphere), 1988.

Schmid and Jongman have updated, revised, and expanded their 1984 encyclopediac work on terrorism. Extensive use of questionnaires received from analysts on terrorism enrich their commentary. The subtitle reveals how comprehensive their coverage is of this growing field of political studies. Terrorism has been practiced by the human race since the time when rulers committed injustices on the weak, and the weak responded with violence. Pending a universal age of enlightenment, terrorism will remain for people to use, control, and study. Schmid and Jongman have produced an essential work for such purposes.

What is its value? First, *Political Terrorism* helps the beginning student in the field in a number of areas. The authors begin by reviewing the many definitions of terrorism. Defining the subject is a necessary introduction to the field because it allows the student to identify terrorism and its sources. Beginning students need "the big picture," the broad perspective on terrorism to help them envision how one act fits into a larger mosaic. A chapter on typologies of terrorism completes Part 1 of the book. Since typologies structure or categorize the relationships between variables, students who must formulate research hypotheses will find this section valuable. It is a new chapter and the authors comment on some features of typologies "which are illogical, ideological or ill-fitting for empirical reasons . . ." Throughout the work, the authors and the five others who collaborated with them in surveying the field provide commentaries on what existing studies have adequately covered and what remains to be done. Part 2 presents current theories. Many of the findings on terrorism, as scholars already know, are counter-