

IN THIS ISSUE

Recent events have once again focused attention on Latin America. In Colombia, the government is locked in a deadly struggle with *narcotraficantes*, the powerful organized crime cartels whose power and violence stem from the lucrative cocaine trade. But this is not the first time widespread internal violence has afflicted Colombia. James Zackrison's essay recounts the prolonged period of disorder known as *La Violencia*, in which thousands of Colombians died. He asserts that it was a unique phenomenon which violates all current notions about what constitutes political terrorism.

Major fighting resumed in Nicaragua at the beginning of November, as the 19-month ceasefire between the Sandinistas and the "Contras" broke down in mutual recrimination. Whether the result is the cancellation of forthcoming elections or a renewed effort to disarm, disband and reintegrate the "Contras" remains to be seen. David Snelbecker argues that there are significant constraints on Sandinista freedom of action which limit Nicaragua's threat to American interests in the region. This being the case, he asserts, the United States can and should recast its Central America policy to address the more important issues and problems confronting the region.

Finally, Ernest Evans examines the American Catholic Church's policies on the South African issue. His article shows that the Church has, with the best of motives, articulated a position that is nonetheless fraught with contradictions. Evans asserts that the Church has failed to comprehend the possible unintended and undesirable consequences of its policies.

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.

Military Historians Take Note!

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE

Clio and Mars: Themes in the Utility of Military History

4th Annual Conflict Studies Conference

University of New Brunswick

28-29 September 1990

For information contact: Dr. David Charters
Centre for Conflict Studies
University of New Brunswick
or
Professor Marc Milner
Department of History
P.O. Box 4400
Fredericton, N.B.
CANADA E3B 5A3
(506) 453-4587/4621

3rd Annual Conflict Studies Conference

"Northern Ireland: A Twenty Year Retrospective"

Copies of eight of the papers delivered at the Conference are available, at \$2.50 per paper or \$20.00 for the set.

For a list of the papers presented, see the Conference insert in the Spring 1989 issue of *Conflict Quarterly*.

For further information contact: Centre for Conflict Studies
University of New Brunswick
P.O. Box 4400
Fredericton, N.B.
CANADA E3B 5A3
Telephone: (506) 453-4587
Telex No.: 014-46202
FAX No.: (506) 453-4599