

## IN THIS ISSUE

It was perhaps inevitable that, as the crisis in the Persian Gulf escalated, smaller crises and wars were pushed off the front pages and largely forgotten. And in the rush to identify and digest the 'lessons' of the Gulf War, it is likely that Low Intensity Conflict Studies will experience a period of declining interest, although not of declining relevance. Such a period out of the 'limelight' might be quite beneficial, by creating an atmosphere of detachment conducive to assessing the state of the field of study.

In September 1991 the 5th Annual Conflict Studies Conference will address the theme: "Low Intensity Conflict: the New Face of Battle?" The purpose of the conference is to take stock of the field. This Centre and others, and many scholars, have been discussing "Low Intensity Conflict" for more than a decade. Yet, it is clear from the literature, that the term has different meanings for different users and audiences. The conference will provide an opportunity for some of the leading scholars in the field to examine the origins of the concept, definitions, historical cases, the state of literature and research, and LIC's place in the study of war.

The articles and reviews appearing in this issue comprise a 'snapshot' of the subjects which this Centre has usually included under the rubric of "Low Intensity Conflict": revolutions and revolutionary war; guerrilla warfare and counterinsurgency; special operations; terrorism; peace-keeping; intelligence activities; and deception. Whether all of these topics ought to be included in the field of study is likely to be a matter of some debate at the conference. In the meantime, the essays and reviews published here will provide fuel for the debate, if only by shedding light on two less well-known conflicts. The civil war in Chad was at once obscure and baffling; consequently, the OAU's peace-keeping effort has attracted little attention outside Africa. Yet, as Amadu Sesay's article shows, there is much of value to be learned about the limits of peace-keeping from the OAU experience in Chad.

Between 1963 and 1966, when almost all of Western attention in Asia was focused on Vietnam, Britain was engaged in an undeclared, but very real, war against Indonesia. At its peak in 1965-66, it involved some 50,000 British personnel from all services. It has since been described as the best-conducted campaign of Britain's post-war period (at least, until the Falklands and the Gulf). Yet, again, relatively little has been written about it. Raffi Gregorian takes a fresh look at the conflict, particularly at its most unique feature — the covert, cross-border operations by the SAS and other units, actions the British government has never officially acknowledged.

Finally, Robert Chisholm provides a new perspective on a subject of considerable controversy: the Sandinista regime of Nicaragua. In dissecting the regime, Chisholm steers a middle course, finding it neither the popular, pluralist democracy heralded by its supporters, nor the totalitarian, ideological dictatorship decried by its detractors. Rather he defines and describes it as an 'inclusionary' corporatist regime, at least up to the outbreak of the 'Contra War' in 1983. In this sense, he argues, it was based on a political model common in Latin American history, and as such represented "old wine in a new bottle". Will the 5th Annual Conference reach the same conclusion about the study of Low Intensity Conflict?

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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 the University of New Brunswick.

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**5th Annual Conflict Studies Conference**

**LOW INTENSITY CONFLICT:  
THE NEW FACE OF BATTLE?**

**University of New Brunswick  
27-28 September 1991**

**Sponsored by the Centre for Conflict Studies  
of the University of New Brunswick  
under a grant from the  
Canadian Department of National Defence**

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## **PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME**

### **Day 1 - CASE STUDIES IN LOW INTENSITY CONFLICT**

The British Experience: an Historical Survey  
Tom Mockaitis - Carthage College

The Punjab Disturbances of 1919  
Mark Jacobsen - Naval Historical Center

The Mau Mau Emergency  
Randall Heather - Cambridge University

Comparing Malaya and Vietnam  
Sam Sarkesian - Loyola University of Chicago

American Pacification: the Western Frontier and the Philippines  
1866-1902  
Brian Aldridge - University of New Brunswick

Marines and Sandinistas, 1926-1933  
David Brooks - University of Connecticut

The Phoenix Program  
Dale Andrade - Naval Historical Center

Reinventing the Wrong Wheel? Current American Doctrine and  
Thinking on LIC  
Larry Cable - University of North Carolina at Wilmington

### **Day 2 - LOW INTENSITY CONFLICT AND THE STUDY OF WAR: A WORKSHOP**

Defining the Field and the Problem  
Douglas Pike - Institute of East-Asian Studies, Berkeley

Origins and Meaning of the Concept of "Low Intensity"  
Charles Townshend - University of Keele

State of the Art: Current Research and Literature  
Bruce Hoffman - RAND Corporation

Low Intensity Conflict: Its Place in the Study of War  
Ian F.W. Beckett - RMA Sandhurst

The Political and Psychological Dimensions of Low Intensity Conflict  
Maurice Tugwell - The Mackenzie Institute