

IN THIS ISSUE

The three articles in this issue address a common theme: how do unwanted, unrepresentative governments try to extricate themselves from their political predicaments, and why do their efforts fail? Richard Weitz examines the peace settlement and Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan. Jacob Abadi looks at the British efforts to seek collaboration from the Jewish leadership in pre-Independence Palestine. Thomas Mitchell considers the internal settlement efforts in southern Africa. If these cases are at all representative, then the prospects for such governments are almost universally bleak. Only the Soviet approach in Afghanistan showed real prospect of success, by transforming a war against an occupying power into a civil war and by encouraging a more flexible stance on the part of the Najibullah regime. But the collapse of the Soviet government in 1991 undermined that strategy, and a continuation of the civil war seems likely. And, at this point of writing, the outcome of internal settlement efforts in South Africa remains uncertain, although the result of the referendum gives cause for cautious optimism.

While these examples might give unpopular rulers cause to ponder their possible fates, the value of these studies is not so much that they teach a "lesson." Rather, they provide the scholar with several "models" which can be applied to examine and assess other similar situations, both past and future: Britain's former colonial possessions, such as Malaya, Kenya, and Cyprus; Vietnam; Eastern Europe; Central America; and the Philippines, are just a few of the cases that come to mind. In short, there is considerable scope for further research by historians, political scientists and international relations specialists.

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Dominick (Toby) Graham, one of the founders of the Centre and of this journal, has now settled into a well-deserved and very active retirement among the Yorkshire dales. In recognition of that fact and of his considerable contribution to *Conflict Quarterly*, we have decided to honour him with a promotion, to **Editor Emeritus**. Thanks, Toby, for all your help, over the years! Paul Wilkinson, well-known to our readership as one of the leading scholars in the study of terrorism, is leaving the masthead at this time. Paul was one of the first to join our editorial board, and his assistance has been greatly appreciated. We wish him continued success with his own journal.

Joining the board at this time are two distinguished scholars: Richard Dale and Grant Wardlaw. Dick is Associate Professor of Political Science at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois, and is widely published on the internal and international politics of the states of Southern Africa. His presence on the board will fill a long-standing gap in that field. Grant is author of one of *the* standard texts on the study of political terrorism, thus filling the space vacated by Paul. Formerly Senior Criminologist at the Australian Institute of Criminology, he is currently a consultant with the Attorney General's Department, where he continues to pursue his interests in terrorism, and in problems such as narcotics. Both Dick and Grant are long-standing contributors to the *Quarterly*, and we are pleased to welcome them to the Editorial "team."

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.
