

EDITORIAL

On 16 Nov 2006 during a seminar on 'Bridging the Gap between Peacekeeping and Peace-building' at the USI, Lt Gen Satish Nambair, PVSM, AVSM, VrC (Retd) Director USI, presented a paper on the subject of "Robust Peacekeeping Operations, Rapid Deployment Capabilities for the UN: An Indian Perspective". The script of the paper is published as the lead article in this issue of the Journal. The author has briefly covered developments in the international system and has emphasised that during the last three and a half years, division within the membership of the United Nations over fundamental policies on peace and security has got exposed. They include issues such as non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, combating international terrorism, criteria for use of force, notion of preventive war, unilateralism and the role of the United Nations. However, there is a unanimous view that meeting the challenges of threats means getting serious about prevention. Deploying military and civilian police for the maintenance of international peace and security is legitimate. However, in practice there is invariably an inordinate delay in arrival of troops in the mission area which aggravates the situation. The author has stressed that a modest military force together with police and other civilian affairs and humanitarian aid personnel, if inserted into a conflict zone soon after a semblance of agreement between belligerents is reached can achieve a lot in terms of implementation of the agreement than a much larger force introduced three to six months later. The answer to meet crisis situations that call for speedy deployment is to raise and maintain a Standing United Nations Rapid Deployment Force. A division size force alongwith a civilian police component and some civil affairs personnel should constitute this Force. The personnel should be volunteers from the militaries and police of member states deputed for a fixed tenure not exceeding three years. Personnel would serve in their individual capacities and revert to national duties after the deputation period. The author has taken pains to spell out methodology for ironing out variations in training standards, communication problems, command, control and co-ordination aspects and so on. Conceptual parameters for deployment and employment of such a UN Rapid Deployment Force have also been discussed. The author has highlighted that India's contribution to UN peacekeeping is well recognised. The DPKO is calling on us to conduct training courses on their behalf. India should respond positively and insist on representation on UN Headquarters and on decision making mechanisms there. India should keep a division size force as a standing force to respond to UN requests expeditiously. Such a force could also be utilised for a regional requirement should a need arise. The article is comprehensive and rich in content.

On 09 Aug 2006, His Excellency Mr Halil Akinci, Ambassador of Turkey in India delivered a lecture at the USI on the subject of "Turkey's Relations with Central Asian Countries". The script of the talk has been published as an article in this issue of the Journal. Central Asia is rich

in oil resources. After the break up of the Soviet Union, Central Asian Countries became independent. Turkey helped these countries to surmount economic hardships consequent to the dissolution of highly centralised command economy. According to Ambassador Akinci, Turkey helped Central Asian States in consolidation of their independence, nation-building, economic development and steps towards integration with the international community. Turkey considers stability in Central Asia as an inescapable component of stability in Eurasia. The Central Asian countries have joined various international and regional organisations and have consolidated their independence and sovereignty. Turkey has provided 1.2 billion dollars in credit and more than 2,500 Turkish firms operate in the region. Turkish firms have invested more than five billion dollars in Central Asia. Planning for establishment of East-West Energy and Transportation corridor has been undertaken. The region is making good progress.

A menace being faced by us is 'Left Wing Extremism (LWE)' which is commonly referred to as 'Naxalite Problem'. It commenced in 1967 from a small village Naxalbari in Siliguri division of West Bengal. It has spread its tentacles to 170 districts covering a number of states of the country. This menace has gone through various mutations and continues to intensify. It has become the second major internal security problem after Jehadi terrorism and needs to be addressed expeditiously. Lt Gen Madan Gopal, PVSM, AVSM and Bar (Retd) presented a paper on 24 Nov 2006 at the USI on the subject of "Naxalism in India : Framework for Conflict Resolution". The script of the paper is published as an article in this issue of the Journal. The author has highlighted that naxalism is not the problem; rather it is the symptom of a problem. LWE succeeds where people are poor and face oppression by certain segments of society; the government is indifferent to their plight, and there are little prospects that things will get better in the future. On the other hand, LWE fails where the reverse is true. The author has stressed that to eliminate naxalism, it is not enough to eliminate their leaders, imprison their cadres or arrange for mass surrenders of men and weapons; because new leaders will rise and cadres will come. We must undercut their *raison d'être*, their reason for being. Their methods may be abhorrent but most of their goals are not, and we must fulfill their goals for them. The author has spelt out the need for concurrent measures to be adopted to tackle the problem squarely. The suggested measures include: modernisation of police forces, allocation of CPO resources; co-ordination of intelligence functions; land reforms; equal opportunities for education and employment, infrastructure development, fair administration of justice, and effective and efficient governance. According to the author, the elected governments, in the affected states, should focus on development of the area keeping the local sensitivities in mind without indulging in partisan politics. Once this happens we are bound to see the light at the end of the tunnel.