

## THE DIRECTOR'S PAGE

Another eventful year has gone by and like others before, it has been a period of intense activity at the United Service Institution of India. The President's Report, copies of which are being sent to all our life members, records the activities of the Institution in detail. Even so, the major aspect that I would like to draw the attention of our members to, is that with the support of the Chiefs of Staff Committee having been accorded, the Council has given final approval to the setting up of a Centre for Strategic Studies and Simulation. The present Centre for Research together with its resources will be merged with the proposed Centre, which will not only undertake more focused and dedicated study in selected disciplines and continue to pursue research projects, but also develop a capability for simulation at the strategic level. Action is being initiated to induct the staff required to set the processes in motion and that will be followed by inviting applications for research scholars at various levels. It is hoped that by the middle of the year the Centre for Strategic Studies and Simulation would have taken off.

Members will no doubt recall that in November last year I had been nominated by the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr Kofi Annan, to form part of a high level United Nations (UN) panel to examine global threats, analyse future challenges, identify clearly the contribution collective security can make to the international system, and recommend institutional changes. It was a great honour and a privilege to serve on the panel which completed its work in November and submitted a report to the Secretary General on 1 December 2004. The Report is the subject of much discussion and debate nationally as well as internationally. The executive summary of the Report titled "A More Secure World: Our Shared Responsibility" is reproduced in this issue of the Journal. At the request of our members I had shared with them my impressions and experiences of working on the Panel on 14 December 2004. Extracts of my talk are included in this issue for our wider audience.

Allow me to take this opportunity to wish our members and their families all the very best in the festive season and for the New Year.