

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1988

LEIUTENANT GENERAL S.F. RODRIGUES, PVS, VSM, ADC
VICE CHIEF OF THE ARMY STAFF
AND PRESIDENT OF THE USI COUNCIL

Gentlemen, I welcome you to the USI Council meeting for 1988. I also wish to take this opportunity of extending our welcome to the new members, who have joined the Council since our last meeting.

The year 1988 has been very satisfactory for the USI, as considerable progress has been achieved in most spheres of activity. The enrolment of new members, especially of life members, has been very heartening. The Journal is being published regularly on schedule and a marked improvement has been achieved both in its get up and the quality of its articles. Lectures are being organised almost every month and the number of members using the library, for research purposes, has increased. Our finances continue to show a satisfactory improvement inspite of the increased expenditure on the staff, library and other activities. The only unhappy position continues to remain in the new USI building project. But here too I am happy to report that the allotment of a new site is at present in its final stages with the Government.

MEMBERSHIP

You will recall that at our last meeting, members had expressed grave concern over the very poor state of enrolment of new members, especially life members. It was noticed that most of the new members were those who joined the various correspondence courses and they discontinued their membership soon after completing their courses. It had then been resolved that efforts should be made to enrol new life members. Gen Harbaksh Singh had suggested that a scheme be worked out to offer a rebate on tuition fees to those who join as life-members. Based on this suggestion the Executive Committee introduced a scheme of giving a 10% rebate on the tuition fees of our courses to life members.

This scheme alongwith the efforts made by the USI staff have produced excellent results. This year until 1 Dec 88 we have had 512 life members and another 130 ordinary members have converted their membership to become life members. This figure exceeds the total enrolment of life members over the past ten years. To maintain this trend I request each of our Council members to try and enrol at least 10 life members in 1989.

FINANCES

The audited income and expenditure accounts along with the audit report are with you and I hope you have had time to examine them. In the audit report you will have noticed there are no major irregularities and suitable replies have been given to all the objections raised. Action to rectify the faults has been initiated.

The income and expenditure position of the Institution over the last three years was -

Year	Income (Rs)	Expenditure (Rs)	Surplus (Rs)
1985	5,42,079.44	2,48,062.46	2,94,016.98
1986	7,37,357.17	3,14,910.40	4,22,446.77
1987	7,07,574.91	3,04,344.59	4,03,230.32
1988 (Probable)	9,80,000.00	5,29,409.00	4,50,591.00

As in previous years, a certain portion of the interest received on investments has been transferred to various funds and has not been reflected in the income. A sum of Rs. 5,73,098.19 as against Rs. 5,04,035.58 in 1986, has been apportioned to Revision Courses Fund (Rs. 1,85,028.15), Building Fund (Rs. 2,43,898.26), Education and Training Fund (Rs. 87,927.88) and Library Fund (Rs. 56,243.90). Therefore the total surplus for 1987 is Rs. 9,76,328.51 as against Rs. 9,26,482.35 for 1986.

As on date the investment position of the Institution is -

(a) *USI Corpus Fund*

(i) Public Sector	Rs. 75,04,000.00
(ii) Nationalised Banks	Nil

(b) *Grant for Building*

Public Sector Undertaking	1,79,20,000.00
---------------------------	----------------

I said last year that we needed to take note of the fact that the expenditure on running the Institution and its activities are much beyond what we receive annually from membership subscriptions. Today we are supplying each member every year four copies of the Journal costing Rs. 36/- for the 30/- we receive as annual subscriptions. This you will agree, cannot continue. We have, therefore, included on the agenda a point for increasing the subscriptions for all types of membership.

THE USI JOURNAL

This year all issues of the Journal have been despatched regularly on scheduled dates. There have been no delays. Its printing and get up have been considerably improved but at an increased cost. Due to the increased honorarium paid for articles there has been a marked improvement in their quality and there is no dearth of material sent for publication. We shall discuss this in greater detail as it has been included as a point on the Agenda.

CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

Due to the good work done by Lt Col Prem Dhawan and the staff on the courses side, candidates who had taken our correspondence courses achieved very good results. In 1988 the results of our Army candidates for the Defence Services Staff College Entrance Examination were -

- (a) Competitive vacancies - 15 out of 20 (75%)
- (b) Overall vacancies - 122 out of 235 (51.95%)

Because of these good results, the number of officers enrolling for our courses has shown a marked increase. The figures for enrolment in various courses are -

	1986	1987	1988
(a) DSSC (Army)	621	417	657
(b) Promotion Part D	325	328	527
(c) Promotion Part B	219	154	247
(d) TSC	81	49	91
(e) DSSC (Air Wing)	30	66	68

Till now we have been running courses for Army and Air Force Officers. This year Naval HQ have asked the USI to run a similar preparatory correspondence course for Naval promotion/DSSC Entrance Examination. This course will cover only one subject which is at present common to naval officers of all branches. This course syllabus has been approved by Naval HQ and detailed instructions for the course have been sent to Naval HQ who have disseminated the information to all Naval Commands.

USI BUILDING PROJECT

Unfortunately permission for construction on our land near Dhaula Kuan on the South Ridge was not forthcoming. We are in the final stages of getting an alternative piece of land on Rao Tula Ram Marg, opposite the Sig-

nals Enclave. This point has been placed on the agenda and we will discuss it in greater detail later.

ACTIVITIES OF THE USI IN 1988

National Security Lecture. Two such lectures have been held this year. The first was the 1987 lecture. A lecture on Science and National Security was delivered by Dr Raja Ramanna on 26 March 1988. The second lecture on "India, Pakistan and the USA" was delivered by Shri S Nihal Singh on 16 Nov 88. On both these occasions the functions were presided over by Shri K C Pant, the Hon'ble Raksha Mantri. We will now have to suggest a panel of names for the speakers for the 1989 National Security Lecture.

Lectures. Lectures by various eminent scholars were organised by the USI almost every month. These lectures are being published in the USI Journal -

- (a) 25 Jan 88 - Mr Carlyle Thayer from Australia on "Australia's Perception of South East Asian Security".
- (b) 20 Apr 88 - Prof G P Deshpande of JNU on "The World and China, Some Recent Perspectives".
- (c) 19 May 88 - Prof AHH Abidi, of JNU on "Recent Developments in the Gulf".
- (d) 4 Aug 88 - Dr Jack Kangas of USA on "The Status and Future of SDI".
- (e) 29 Sep 88 - Prof Kalim Bahadur of JNU on "Pakistan after Zia".
- (f) 4 Oct 88 - Prof Paul Leventhal, from USA on "Nuclear Terrorism".

Gold Medal Essay. The subjects for the 1988 Gold Medal Essay Competition have been selected by the Executive Committee. Wide publicity is being given to this Essay Competition through our Journal and through the three Service Headquarters. The enhanced cash prizes sanctioned by the Executive Committee, are also being given wide publicity.

Library. This year there has been a large increase in the number of members using the library to do research work. To improve the facilities provided at the Library, the USI had requested all Army, Naval and Air Force Commands for the grant of funds. The Army Commands have provided Rs. 1.20 lakhs while the Naval Commands and Naval HQ have provided a grant of Rs. 58,000/- against the Rs. 50,000/- requested. So far only the Air Force

have not provided any grants for the USI. The USI has procured a medium duty plain paper copier and an electric typewriter. Once the amount from the Air Force is received it is intended to procure a computer to improve upon the system of retrieval of data on library books, articles and other references.

CONCLUSION

As you will all agree, by and large, 1988 has been a very satisfactory year for the USI. It has been able to enrol a record number of new life members. Its correspondence courses have increased in popularity as is shown by the enhanced enrolment for various courses. A new correspondence course is to be started for Naval officers. The Journal has been considerably improved in its get up, printing and in the quality of the articles. It is also being despatched on time. There has been a marked improvement in the various other activities organised by the USI. Finally, its financial position continues to improve, without any let up, inspite of the increased expenditures incurred on improving the library and other facilities. There has even been progress in finding an alternative site for our building project. For all this improvement, on your behalf, I wish to congratulate all the staff of the USI especially the Training Staff and the Editor for their dedicated efforts, which have made all this possible.

Once the new site is approved and work commences, we shall have to evolve a plan to gradually step-up the activities of the USI as well as to effect a smooth change-over. Particular attention will have to be paid to the Library which will involve the planning of its lay-out and the acquisition of new book cases and facilities that will facilitate research.

I am confident that the Director and his Staff will rise to the occasion.