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President's Notes

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES

For a number of years, the Global Strategy Discussions and, since 1972, the Current Strategy Forums have brought a large number of distinguished visitors to the Naval War College in late June or early July, providing a capstone for the academic year just concluded.

In this bicentennial year, however, the customary CSF event is being suspended (for 1976 only) in view of an extraordinary and particularly appropriate undertaking. From 8 to 13 July, at the Naval War College, the first Conference of Naval Command College (NCC) alumni will be conducted, coinciding with the 20th anniversary of this prestigious international course. Each of the 20 classes will be represented and a substantial number of alumni, from many different countries, is expected. Former Presidents of the Naval War College have been invited, as well as former NCC directors and staff members.

The theme of the reunion will be "International Cooperation," and a full schedule of professional activities is planned. Alumni attending will have a welcome opportunity to renew friendships with classmates while exchanging thoughts, representing many different national views, on the timely and stimulating theme.

Adm. Arleigh Burke will also attend the reunion. As the CNO in 1956, he was instrumental in formulating the concept of the Naval Command College. With his wholehearted support and encouragement, Capt. (later Adm.) Richard G. Colbert, the first director of

NCC, established and organized the course which proved successful from its inception. We anticipate that Mrs. Colbert will join us for the Conference at which she will participate in the dedication of the new International Plaza.

Since that time, NCC has been an integral and an important part of the Naval War College. Through academic integration and friendly interaction with its U.S. student counterpart (the College of Naval Warfare), NCC has been instrumental in promoting increased understanding as well as fulfilling its mission of assisting free world naval officers to prepare for high command responsibilities.

Many graduates of NCC have made especially significant contributions in their countries. Of the 522 graduates of the course, 244 have attained flag rank and 38 have been appointed chiefs of their navies. Former graduates now serving as chiefs of their service are: Adm. Gino De Giorgi of Italy, class of 1961; Adm. Mohammed Shariff of Pakistan, class of 1962; Adm. Chong Yon Hwang of Korea, class of 1965; Vice Adm. Felix J. Mendoza of Venezuela, class of 1967; Vice Adm. Kamal Habibelahy of Iran, class of 1968; Rear Adm. Bechir Jedidi of Tunisia, class of

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1972; Commodore Chit Hlaing of Burma, class of 1962; Commodore Chomogoh Kevin Dzang of Ghana, class of 1975; Capt. Berhanu Tesfaye of Ethiopia, class of 1969; Col. Fares G. Lahoud of Lebanon, class of 1974; and Comdr. Ibrahim Mohammed Al-Saja of Saudi Arabia, class of 1975. Many of the NCC officer alumni will also attend the Fourth International Seapower Symposium, which is being hosted at the Naval War College by the Chief of Naval Operations from 5 to 9 July, thus providing a 1-day overlap with the NCC Conference. On that day, 9 July 1976, the ISS delegates and those attending the Conference will be jointly addressed by a Cabinet-level speaker.

The lead article in this issue is an extensive report of what the Cambodian Communists did when they came to power in the region of southern Cambodia near the Vietnamese border. The research for this article is based on extensive and painstaking efforts by the author who was actually present in that part of Vietnam adjacent to the area of his study. Since little, if any, information about events in Cambodia has reached the outside world since Phnom Penh fell to the Khmer Communists in April 1975, we know very little of the Communists' program and methods of operation. This article documents what happened in one area of Cambodia.

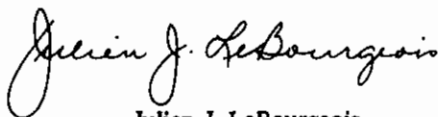
China watchers will be interested in Lieutenant Muller's article on politics and the Chinese People's Republic Navy. The author is an intelligence officer who has specialized in Chinese studies. The deteriorating course of events in southern Africa makes Harry Strack's article on Rhodesia timely. He explains why it has been possible for Rhodesia to have prospered for over 10 years since the Unilateral Declaration of

Independence despite the imposition of economic sanctions.

We are grateful to Professor Frederick H. Hartmann of our faculty for permission to use a chapter from his forthcoming book *The Game of Strategy*. In this excerpt he describes and explains in detail the difference in perspective between military officers and diplomats. He does not imply in any way that one view is valid and the other invalid. Instead, he suggests that both viewpoints are equally valid, the difference being simply a matter of approach to the same problem.

In the concluding article, Lawrence Allin, a maritime historian from the University of Maine, applies the comparative method advocated by Rear Adm. Stephen B. Luce, founding President of the Naval War College, to two particular periods in the institutional life of the Navy: 1870-1890 and 1950-1970. He analyzes the problems facing the Navy in these two periods, and he finds some startling similarities, both in the problems themselves and in the response of the professional officers involved.

The book review section of this issue features a multifaceted review of Drew Middleton's new book *Can America Win the Next War?* In view of the importance of the subject and the author's controversial conclusions, we have asked several members of our faculty to review it. I am sure you will find their independent comments stimulating.



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