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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello to all fellow Members of the USINNI. Winter seems to be fading away, while the long awaited warmer summer weather is starting to move in. Hooray!!

In this message I would like to extend my personal belief on what a very interesting year this one has been so far, and particularly to the "who knows" where it is going. From the high intensity rhetoric between the US and North Korea to the what appears to be an

unbelievable turn around on the part of North Korea, to the relations between the two most westerly Canadian provinces, to the no-end-in-sight cost increases in the price of gasoline, A very interesting year so far indeed. As I have previously predicted and publicly stated, "hold on to your hats, you have not seem anything yet". I believe that as surprising as this year has been to date, the remainder of the year it is going to be

one heck of a ride.

And now I invite you to express your concerns and thoughts, either through this forum (by submission of an article) or, through a verbal presentation at our luncheon/meeting. State your case. The other Members of our Institute are interested and eager to hear.

I sincerely hope to see you all at the luncheon/meeting on May 9th.

Edwin

Nanaimo, 19 April 2018...all is not well on and for NATO's Eastern Front, facing Russia as it does. We currently have modest & token augmentation forces from Canada, the United States and a representative number of our European allies lined up to watch the day-to-day machinations of the Big Bad Bear. Deployed NATO naval, military and air forces are to be found in and about both the Black and the Baltic Seas, and within the frontline NATO states Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania & Bulgaria. All are facing and having to deal with Russian Armed Forces on a daily basis. In just being, for Russia and NATO, each antagonizes the other. The Cold War's back in spades. Canada also has a military presence in non-NATO Ukraine .

Military & Security Musings:

THE POLITICAL & SOCIAL CLIMATE IS CHANGING FOR THE WORST IN EUROPE

While Turkey is nominally another Eastern frontline NATO partner, its relationship with NATO is currently strained & ambiguous; indeed, the Turks are getting along better with the Russians than they do with the United States, Germany or Greece in particular. Still shut out of membership in the EU by a Greek veto, Turkey several

years ago gained dialogue observer status with the Shanghai (Economic & Security) Organization and is now much more focused on blossoming relationships among growing numbers of Asian, Middle Eastern and African countries. Turkey's autocratic Sunni Islamic President Recep Erdogan is simply not to be trusted, much less relied on.

All is not well within or for Eastern Europe. The wars that pitted former Yugoslavian ethnic and religious communities, one & all against the others, may have died down, but remain entirely unsettled, yet to be renewed, or, much less likely, to somehow be peacefully resolved. The veneer of democracy throughout this historically troubled region is a very fine one. The "tribes" are restless.

Russia still has ethnic, cultural, political and economic influence in and with the three Baltic NATO partners. Politically schizophrenic, the Balts fear the Russians in one moment and wonder if they, the Balts, really fit into Central Europe the next. The Poles have every reason imaginable to be fearful of and hostile towards the Russians; that won't change. But, for Poland and most other East European countries, contemporary liberalism has put down only the shallowest of roots. Autarchic tribalism still holds much appeal for dozens of Eastern & Central European national groups who have waged bloody wars over the centuries for land, water and their own particular *lebensraum*. The writ of the European Union is fast being seen by many in this region as just another set of shackles exchanged for the communist and fascist ones that preceded.

The unwelcome influx of refugees out of the Middle East, Asia and Africa is serving to enhance support for ultra-conservative governments in Europe, as elsewhere. The existing international conventions on refugees have little if any appeal for Eastern Europeans. And, as I have suggested in several columns these past three years, the flood of refugees into Europe is just in its infancy. The

next major surge out of the Middle East will occur before the onset of the coming winter and could add two to 3 million new refugees to the pot. The consequences for Eastern Europe and unwelcome refugees alike are likely to be catastrophic.

There is another significant problem compounding life for Europeans in general. Highly organized and sophisticated international crime is a growth

industry in Eastern Europe, much of it the by-product of the 1990's collapse of the Soviet Union. Disciplined, well-financed, highly organized, and politically well-connected, European criminal gangs constitute another de facto level of governance, not just in Eastern Europe, but stretching out elsewhere into the rest of Europe and beyond. INTERPOL has published numerous reports on the subject, but the

problem continues to grow, with the police and the justice system seemingly unable or unwilling to stem systemic crime. Even in the midst of overlapping Middle Eastern wars, drug traffickers continue to prosper, being jointly ignored or tolerated and often facilitated by the rebellious on one hand and by those who are the targets of rebellion on the other.

Drug trafficking into Europe is estimated to be major successful business that earned the traffickers some \$US 300 billion last year alone; and yes, that's not a printing error. \$US 300,000,000,000 in one year. The traffic comes south to north across the Mediterranean or travels up the Atlantic coast from Africa or South America, or, heads north or west out of the Middle East or from Asia through Russia on into Eastern Europe and then ever westward.

Crime pays. Much of it stretches into the corporate boardrooms and the offices of the major banks & lending houses of Europe. The gains of crime fund still more crime, but also serve to underwrite the political corruption necessary for

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Changing... continued on page 4...

NOTICE OF A MEETING OF THE MEMBERS

Notice is hereby given that a **Special General Meeting of the Members** of this Institute will be convened immediately prior to our usual Lunch, on **Wednesday, the 9th day of May 2018, at RCL Branch 257 (Lantzville)**.

The Members will be asked to review and approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 14th of March 2018.

Following this, the only scheduled business is a motion that Honoured Life Membership be

accorded a long-time Member-in-Good-Standing of the Institute, the details and specifics of which will be addressed during this Special General Meeting.

This Notice of Meeting fully meets the notification and convening requirements as provided for in Articles 10.2 and 10.3 of our **Constitution: Purposes and By-Laws** 8 February 1994, as subsequently amended through to 14 September 2016.

This is Russia's **SU 57**, aka the joint Russia-India **T 50** Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft (FGFA). India has now (20 April 2018) withdrawn from this 10+ year joint project with Russia to develop a competitive FGFA. The project had long been in trouble, with several technical issues plaguing it, mainly related to faulty stealth design features. There isn't any doubt that damning technical issues played the biggest role leading to the cancella-



tion, but there has also been a recent cooling trend for the roughly sixty-year long India-Russia relationship. India has recently been tilting more toward the United States, while Russia's been forging a deepening strategic Asian convergence with China. The Russians may have eleven flyable SU 57s on hand, but it is unlikely Russia will now meet the squadron deployments that were scheduled to begin next year.

This month's Luncheon/Meeting will be held on

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9TH, 2018, 1130 HOURS

at

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION, BRANCH 257

7227 LANTZVILLE ROAD

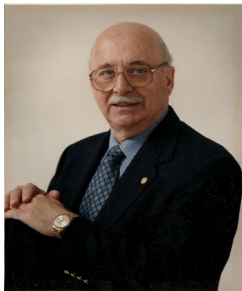
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Changing... continued from page 2...

“business as usual” across the entire continent. The banks and big business are the money launderers necessary for Major Crime 2018.

The Europe you or I see or imagine is one of Nordic fiords, sunny Mediterranean beaches, river cruising or quaint towns & villages. Those exist, but do not fully represent an uglier, evolving Europe. As Bobby sang:

the times, they are a-changing...
 ... and not for the better!



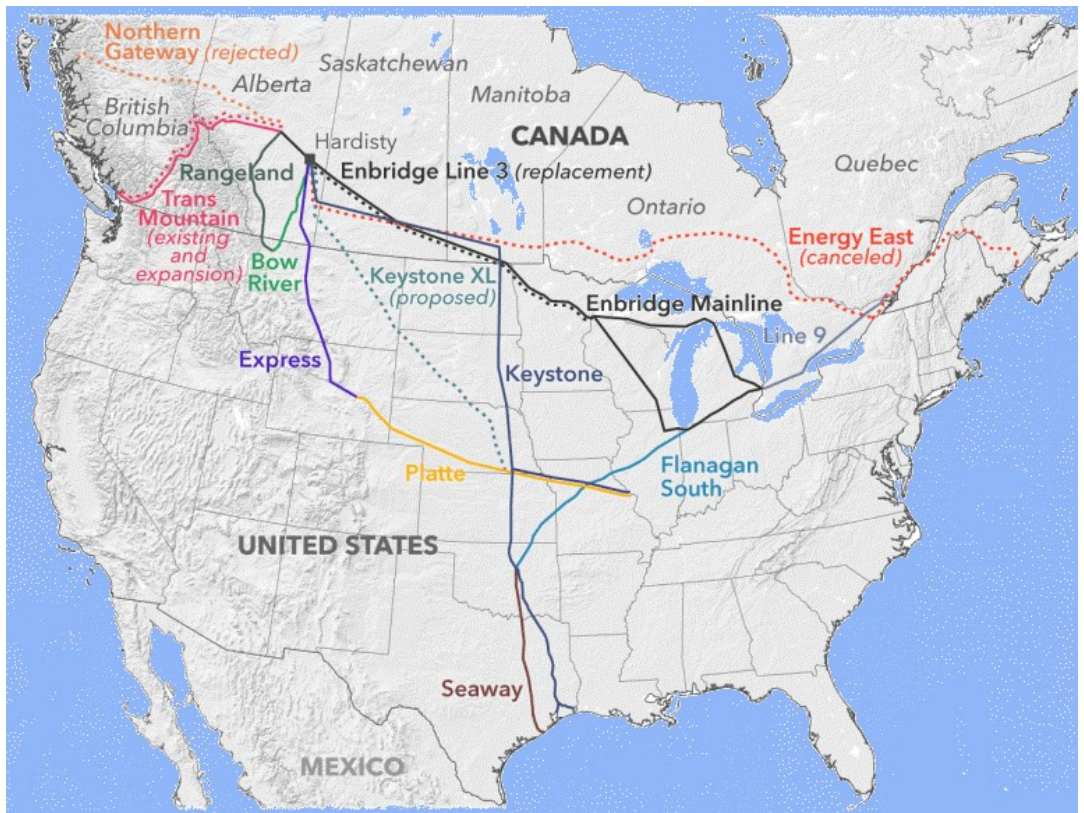
The views expressed in this column are those of Colonel (Retd) WJ McCullough, MSC, CD, a Past President of the Institute and the Chair of our Military Committee. Arthritic these days, Bill doesn't like flying and hasn't been back to Europe in six years, but, he accumulated some eight years living and working in the region earlier. He's been around.

LUNCHEON MEETING ATTENDANCE

Your telephone contact coordinator will attempt to contact you in the days prior to our monthly luncheon/ meeting in order to confirm your attendance. In this manner we can provide attendance numbers to the volunteer kitchen staff at RCL 257 so that they may prepare adequately for our function.

If for some reason, she has missed you, please contact Edwin at 250-751-2360 or ejpeeters@shaw.ca.

Oil Pipeline Systems Originating in Western Canada



“We’re more important to the US’s Petro needs than even Saudi Arabia is”

...,a thought provoking submission by one of our Members...