



# UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE

OF

## NANAIMO AND NORTH ISLAND

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**Vol 28 No 10**

**October 2020**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello All USINNI Members. I hope that this newsletter not only finds you and yours in good health, but also in good spirits.

It has been said "Do you want the good news or the bad news first?"

Well I will start with the bad news. I must regretfully announce that due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, both provincially and nationally, we are cancelling all luncheon/meetings for the remainder of the year. The possible consequences of conducting luncheon/meetings, caused by the uncertainty around the path that the pandemic is taking, has prompted this move. We acknowledge and must respect the response we have had from both the

Members of our Institute and the Board. A recent survey of the Institute Members concluded that very few members would feel comfortable attending a luncheon/meeting at this time. We remain optimistic that next year will be better.

For the good news, the Board has approved the automatic renewal of all current 2020 memberships for the year 2021, at no cost to the Member. We felt that it was only just as we have not been able to provide (due to COVID-19 restrictions) our Institute Membership with the usual slate of annual activities.

Stay safe, stay well.

Edwin

**Nanaimo, 27 September 2020...** one positive consequence of COVID 19 is that Denyse and I now share more breakfasts than had been our pre-pandemic custom. I'm a morning person...up at or even before first light, while, to say it kindly, Denyse just isn't & doesn't! Breakfast is usually quite simple for each of us; cereal, fruit and a beverage. However, for the past several months, I've taken to doing the full cooked breakfast for both of us two or 3 mornings a week...a little later than I prefer, and, somewhat earlier than Denyse would like. Compromising, we've both stopped grumbling about "life a la Covid," sharing instead views on "what else is new "out 'n

## Military & Security Musings:

# GRUMBLINGS!!!

about" elsewhere in the world.

Some weeks back, after breakfast, she tentatively asked me something to the effect of: "what's all this grumbling going on between China and India?" ... "Glad you asked," says I!!!... And, here's a cameo of the next twenty minutes in Denyse's life: **Tension is again on the rise on the India-China Front.** These two Asian nuclear powers are again nose-to-nose over the actual demarcation of a 4500 km shared, but disputed border. (this is about half as long as the border

between Canada and the United States). Most of what is shown to be China on this map is actually Occupied Tibet. Prior to China's invasion and occupation of Tibet 1949-50, the Tibetans had generally acknowledged boundaries drawn on Brit-

In 1965, the two countries agreed to continue to disagree over the exact location of the border, but formally agreed not to shoot at each other in the process. Fighting continues, with fists, knives, clubs and stones being the weapons of choice. The



Economist.com

ish maps in 1890 by an Irish member of the (Imperial) Indian Army, Captain Henry McMahon. His border was simply drawn on maps, without any serious surveying on the ground.

most recent 15 May 2020 such brawl-like clash left twenty Indian Army soldiers beaten-to-death or tossed off mountain top cliffs. The Chinese are presumed to have suffered similar losses, but having

India agreed then and accepts now that the McMahon Line is the de facto border. Successively, Imperial China, Republican China, the rump Kuomintang Government-in-Exile and the current Communist Government of China did not and do not recognize that border. To more dramatically make the point, in 1962 China attacked across its Himalayan border with India, taking the dispute over borders to a new height. Literally, much of the fighting was at a breathtaking 4000 metre height and higher! This may seem Quixotic in 2020, but it isn't. The Himalayas are the source of some twelve major rivers that provide potable water to most of China and South-Eastern Continental Asia. Dragon-like, China now controls the Tibetan headwaters and can and is diverting more and more fresh water to meet growing Chinese needs. For India, in particular, the threat is an existential one.



been left holding the ground, admitted to none. However, recently and more ominously, on the 7th of September, for the first time in over 30 years,

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## Canada's Claim to the Northwest Passage



The Canadian Guard Ship Louis S. St-Laurent pulls alongside the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Healy during a joint Arctic expedition, September 2008 (USCG)

By PIERRE LEBLANC 09-14-2020

The Arctic's capacity as a strategic buffer is eroding rapidly, with the disappearance of ice making it an avenue of threat to the U.S. homeland. With the power competition between China, Russia, and the United States growing in the Arctic, it may be wise for the latter to recognize the Northwest Passage as internal waters of Canada. This would deny the right of transit to China and Russia not only on the surface of the passage, but also for the air column above and the waters below (for submerged submarines).

The U.S. government has been slow to recognize the fast-developing Arctic as a new strategic theater of competition where China and Russia have been expanding rapidly. The U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Air Force, and the U.S. Navy have now developed Arctic strategies, and U.S. President Donald Trump is now pushing for the U.S. Coast Guard to acquire up to 10 icebreakers. The U.S. has recently appointed James DeHart, a career diplomat, as its Arctic policy czar to specifically monitor China and Russia. DeHart suggested that his appointment marks a turning point in the engagement of the United States in the Arctic. In 2004, then-U.S. ambassador Paul Cellucci recommended a review of the U.S. position. He believed that Canada could protect the Arctic

Archipelago and its waters, and suggested that it was in the United States' security interests "that the Northwest Passage be considered part of Canada."

Recently, China, which has declared itself a "near Arctic nation," has started to behave more aggressively on the world scene, supported by its growing economic and military power. It has published a guide on the use of the Northwest Passage, and its icebreaker Xue Long has visited the Arctic on several occasions. Xue Long 2 is now in the process of doing its first Arctic voyage. China now has a navy larger than America's, and it is in the process of building its own aircraft carriers and amphibious assault ships, which are power projection assets. Despite its commitment not to militarize the Spratly Islands, it has done so. It has ignored a decision of the Hague-based Permanent Court of Arbitration in favour of the Philippines in the South China Sea. It has set debt traps in Africa to secure strategic assets worldwide. Chinese Coast Guard vessels have harassed Vietnamese fishing boats in the South China Sea. Although China claims that it would respect international laws and so on, given its track record, it cannot be trusted.

"Canada's Claim" continued on page 5

**Nanaimo, 28 September 2020...**China under Xi Jinping continues a deliberate process calculated to ensure that, by 2049, China really is the assured home of the Han People, and, is dominant globally. Other resident ethnicities, including but not limited to Tibetans, Inner Mongolians, native Taiwanese and Uyghurs, will have been thoroughly absorbed into a monolithic secure one-party one-people state. And, the Communist Party and the State will assuredly be one and the same. China will also expect all of its border and territorial claims will have been agreed, and, again, acknowledged globally. We, the wider world, faced with a Greater China, will be expected to: “like-it or-lump-it!

In a recent pronouncement, the Central Committee of the PRC declared that only the Han or Mandarin language would be used for public purposes in Greater China. Necessary social reengineering of ethnic and linguistic minorities is already underway. In Western China alone, some million Islamic Uyghurs alone are being confined in detention camps reminiscent of the Stalin years gulags of Siberia, or, Nazi Germany’s concentration & labour camps. Tibetan, Mongolian, Uyghur, Zhang and other lesser dialects will still be used socially and privately, for “a while,” maybe, but will otherwise have no official standing. Freedom of linguistic expression is going the same direction as did freedom of religion; constitutionally assured by the Party, but so severely policed as to be nearly-prescribed. Orwell’s 1984 has arrived for China. Cowed and compliant: *one people, one country, the Party as leader* will mark the tightly surveilled reality for China mid-21<sup>st</sup> Century. Shades of *ein volk, ein reich, ein fuehrer!*

However, and, well you may ask; what does this mean for we here in Canada? Peking or Beijing is some 9000 km distant, and, if it’s 1400 hrs here on Monday, it’s already 0500 tomorrow in Beijing! However, reminiscent of Spain in the mid-Thirties, we have our own contemporary representation of a sympathetic pro-China Fifth Column busy at work right here in Canada. In our August Newsletter, Ed, our President, and, Andrew Christie, the Director responsible for Guest Speakers, had put together a Speakers List right through to Summer 2021 that excelled anything I can recall in my 25 years with this Institute. But it seems COVID 19 has rained on that particular parade... big time! Pity!

## Military & Security Musings:

Multi-Culturalism,  
Uni-Lingualism, Social  
Engineering &  
Diplomacy

Han-Chinese Style

I think I started my own “the sky’s falling; the sky’s falling” Newsletter bleats on China some twelve years ago. Nothing has happened since to make me feel any more comfortable about the Red Chinese. Awakened from a two century-long sleep, the Dragon of which Napoleon spoke gloomily, is “big-time” hungry. Here in Canada, the dragon’s reach gets right down grassroots level into governments and government bureaucracies nationally, provincially and on down to the municipal level. China’s “legal” diplomatic presence bounces back & forth slightly larger or just slightly smaller than that of the United States! In my mind, that’s far more Chinese representation than Canada needs. Some Canadians, who are or were members of at least three of our national political parties, are acting as agents or agents-of-influence on behalf of China’s Communist Party. Agents-of- influence are also active, in China’s interest, in many of our universities, and, in business & commercial circles whenever opportunity and chicanery meet & allow. Bizarrely, just a few weeks ago, at a forum organized by a University of Alberta front group (China Institute), our own Canadian Ambassador to China lectured the audience on the merits of “doing more” to get on the better side of the Xi Jinping regime in Beijing! Go figure that one! They kidnap our people and we’re supposed to just “kiss-up to them!”

It may yet be that a successfully suppressed COVID 19 or extraordinary social distancing will allow us to get Jim Boutillier back soon for a reprise of his views on militant China, with Jonathan Manthorpe and Andrew Chen to follow with their own unique perspectives on Canadian interests & vulnerabilities in a world increasingly dominated by China. Right now, we’re losing our struggle with China to a death of a thousand cuts.

And, in truth, we're not even putting up a decent fight, much less a calculated one!



Trudeau the 1<sup>st</sup> sold out Tibet in 1970. Today, Trudeau the 2<sup>nd</sup> is looking for a way, seemingly anyway at all, to curry contemporary favour in Beijing!

We'll seemingly do anything for a buck. In my Huawei-Meng Wanzhou Opinion Piece carried by the Times-Colonist on 4 May 2019, I promoted remedial action that might have served to cut the dragon off at the knees. I'm sorry to say again that the Government of Canada simply just hasn't the will, the wit or the gonads to take the Chinese on in the only way the Chinese understand. We're just wimps to the Chinese bully and a bit of a curious sideshow for the rest of the World. And,

whether we wimp it out or duke it out, there will be casualties. The two Michaels will be followed by others. We either face the bully down now or just quit the schoolyard.

We've got a Federal Election coming up in our very near future. I find myself wondering who the Chinese will be promoting as their preferred contemporary Mandarin Candidate(s)?

*The author of this column is Colonel (Retd) W.J. (Bill) McCullough, MSC CD, a Past President of our Institute and the former (16-year) Chair of our Military & Security Committee. His views are his own & his columns are the product of his own experience, research & restless middle-of-the-night musing.*

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Canada and the U.S. are in the process of planning for the replacement of the North Warning System that will lead to the NWS 2.0 and possibly a new and expanded NORAD, which includes the U.S. Northern Command. NORAD already has a maritime warning mission. The U.S. Navy could be included in the protection of Canada's waters, in a fashion similar to the U.S. Air Force protecting the air space of both countries. After all, Canada's Arctic Archipelago is the right flank of Alaska and its waters allows a strategic maritime approach from the east.

The Northwest Passage is no longer a promising commercial transit route because of the regular presence of multi-year ice, its shallow draft and the many islands requiring slow maneuvering. It comes in the news from time to time when an event threatens Canada's sovereignty. In 1969 the Manhattan supertanker attempted to cross the Northwest Passage to test the viability of moving crude oil from the Alaska North Slope to the U.S. Eastern Seaboard. In 1985, a U.S. Coast Guard cutter transited the Northwest Passage from east to west to reposition the icebreaker on the West Coast. That led to an agreement whereby the U.S. would advise Canada of a transit and Canada would provide permission. Both countries agreed then to leave the issue dormant without prejudice to their respective positions. Both have managed their differences very well over the years.

In 1970, Canada extended its maritime jurisdiction

through the Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act (AWPPA). In 1985, Canada defined its internal waters in the Arctic using the straight baseline method. A line is drawn from the farthest points of land to the next one along the outside of the Arctic Archipelago. The waters within that line are considered to be internal waters over which Canada has total control and jurisdiction. It has long been the position of the U.S. Navy to block the recognition of the internal waters of the Arctic Archipelago because of the fear that it would create a legal precedent for other nations to claim jurisdiction over international straits around the world, which could reduce their strategic freedom of navigation. Donat Pharand, an internationally renowned scholar and authority on the United Nation Law of the Sea, has argued that the U.S. Navy's concerns are weak, given that the other straits have long been established on historical and traffic volume precedents, whereas the Northwest Passage is not used as a regular commercial transit route between the Atlantic and Arctic Oceans.

Some would argue that to do so may support similar claims by China and Russia. I would counter that their gains would be negligible in comparison with the Chinese and Russian loss of a strategic waterway. Apart from the waters south of the Severnaya Zemlya, the Russian claims are generally along the coast. The Chinese claims are also alongside its coast and would not likely impede freedom of navigation, except maybe for the Xisha Islands, which are disputed. Soon enough the polar route, which

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## Grumblings!!! Continued from page 2

Indian and Chinese troops exchanged warning shots in the disputed glacial Pangong Lake on the North-Western Frontier area of Indian Kashmir.

All this I attempted to explain at the breakfast table without benefit of map, doing so while wildly waving my arms to try expressively conjure up an image of the expanse and drama involved for India and China alike. Having arrived at what would have been “questions?” point of an “O Gp” Denyse remarked that it was all as clear as mud. *“All they need do,”* she said, *“is to simply sit down together with a map and redraw the McMahon Line.”*

*“Ah”* I said, *“that’s the problem. Neither side wants to show the other side their version of the map in case they give away territory the other side hadn’t expected to get!”*

Denyse, with a bemused look on her face, but an appreciative smile for me, shrugged and then enquired *“what’s for breakfast tomorrow?”*



*The author of this column is again Colonel (Retd) W.J. (Bill) McCullough, MSC, CD, a Past President of our Institute and the former 16-year Chair of our Military & Security Committee. Most of the views & conclusions expressed here are his own... endorsed by Denyse!!*

## “Canada’s Claim” continued from page 5

goes directly over the North Pole, will be the preferred route with the continued disappearance of ice. By formalizing the recognition of Canada’s straight baseline method the United States would

contribute significantly to its 2019 Department of Defense (DoD) Arctic strategy, which calls for “a secure and stable region where U.S. national interests are safeguarded, the homeland is protected, and nations address shared challenges cooperatively.” The national security of the U.S. would be

better served by the waters of the Arctic Archipelago being part of the internal waters of Canada.



Your friends and colleagues of the United Services Institute of Nanaimo North Island are concerned and are standing by to help if you are in need or difficulty during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please contact our President WO (Retd) Edwin Peeters at 250-751-2360 or by email at [ejpeeters@shaw.ca](mailto:ejpeeters@shaw.ca) if you need help.

*Colonel (Retd) Pierre Leblanc is a former commander of Joint Task Force North and president of Arctic Security Consultants. This article first appeared in The Hill Times and is reproduced here in an abbreviated form.*