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Vol 29 No 03

MARCH 2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello my fellow Members. Despite the snow we had in the last month, the signs of spring are everywhere. The days are getting longer, the daily high temperature is (slowly) rising itself to the point we will want to be outside and working on our gardens again.

On another good front, the government of Canada has announced the approval of the Oxford University-AstraZenca vaccine for Canadians. While the Department of Health regulators have concluded that the shot has an efficacy rate of 62 percent, it is 100 percent effective in preventing severe outcomes of COVID-19 — including severe illness, hospitalizations and death.

Combined with the other currently approved vaccines, and those vaccines that are anticipated for approval in the next few weeks, every Canadian that wants a shot will be able to get one by the end of September.

We have come a long way. Keep up the pressure. Keep to your small circle. Make only essential trips. Wear that mask whenever you leave your home, or even when you sign for that package that Amazon is delivering.

Together, we can and are making a difference.

Stay safe, stay well,

Edwin

MILITARY AND SECURITY MUSING



Money, Money, Money

**There's Not Nearly
Enough to Go Around!!!**

Nanaimo, 24 February 2021...as I pen this column, we're about a fortnight away from the three day 89th Ottawa Conference on Security & Defence promoted by our parent organization, the Conference of Defence Associations. I'm attending virtually and will share my own impressions with you for the April Newsletter; or, maybe sooner.

One sure thing about COVID 19 and its offshoots is that I'm spending lots of time "virtually" on-line via ZOOM. On my first such foray last Spring, Denyse had to come down to "My Cave" to bail me out, when I was stuck in audio not able to get my camera & visual working. It was early morning and she was still in night attire, but smartly got everything working for me...to the amusement & applause of some forty odd others, our instant appre-

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Spy chief says China is bent on stealing Canadian secrets, silencing critics

The Canadian Press
Tuesday, February 9, 2021

OTTAWA -- The head of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service warns that China is undermining Canada through its efforts to steal valuable technology and silence critics of Beijing's policies.

In a speech Tuesday sponsored by the Centre for International Governance Innovation, CSIS director David Vigneault said all sectors of Canadian society must work together to fend off these threats.

"To be clear, the threat does not come from the Chinese people, but rather from the government of China that is pursuing a strategy for geopolitical advantage on all fronts -- economic, technological, political, and military," Vigneault said.

He bluntly stated that Beijing is "using all events, all elements of state power, to carry out activities that are a direct threat to our national security and sovereignty."

"We all must strengthen our defences."

Vigneault says ill-intentioned countries will aim to "take advantage" of Canada as it works to get back on its economic feet once the COVID-19 pandemic subsides.

Among the sectors of Canada's economy most vulnerable to state-sponsored cyberespionage are biopharmaceuticals and health, artificial intelligence, quantum computing and aerospace, Vigneault said.

These technologies are largely developed within academia in small startups, which are attractive targets because they have modest security protections and are more likely to pursue collaborations that can, and sadly are, exploited by other countries, he said.

"Investigations reveal that this threat has unfortu-

nately caused significant harm to Canadian companies," Vigneault said.

"Collectively, it jeopardizes Canada's knowledge-based economy. When our most innovative technology and know-how is lost, it is our country's future that is being stolen."

Federal officials openly say that China has the capacity to conduct foreign interference in Canada by applying



A sign for the Canadian Security Intelligence Service building is shown in Ottawa, on Tuesday, May 14, 2013. (THE CANADIAN PRESS/Sean Kilpatrick)

pressure and influence in a clandestine and deceptive way to pursue its strategic objectives.

They say China and certain other foreign nations routinely threaten and intimidate people around the world through various state entities and non-state proxies.

One notable example of this is the Chinese government's covert global operation, known as Operation Fox Hunt, which claims to target corruption "but is also believed to have been used to target and quiet dissidents to the regime," Vigneault said.

"Those threatened often lack the resources to defend themselves and are unaware that they can report these activities to Canadian authorities, including CSIS."

In addition, state-sponsored disinformation campaigns have seized on the COVID-19 pandemic to sow confusion and distrust, the Canadian government says.

New Zealand troops to leave Afghanistan after 20-year deployment

February 17, 2021. New Zealand has announced that it will withdraw its last remaining troops from Afghanistan by May, concluding a 20-year deployment that was the country's longest-running one.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said on Wednesday that Afghanistan's internal peace process represented the best prospect for an enduring political solution in the troubled country, meaning the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) was no longer required.

"After 20 years of a NZDF presence in Afghanistan, it is now time to conclude our deployment," she said in a statement.

"The deployments to Afghanistan have been one of the longest running in our history."

New Zealand had deployed more than 3,500 defence and other agency personnel to the country since the US-led invasion in 2001.

The numbers of forces deployed has been steadily reduced in recent years.

It currently has six personnel remaining – three with the Afghanistan National Army Officer Academy and three deployed to the NATO Resolute Support Mission Headquarters.

Ardern's statement said the decision to end the deployment had been discussed with "key partners".

Foreign Affairs Minister Nanaia Mahuta said that despite New Zealand's withdrawal, Auckland will continue to support the Afghan peace efforts.

"New Zealand will continue to be supportive of the Afghan Government and its people in the years to come, including as they work through the intra-Afghan peace process in an effort to resolve the decades-long conflict."

The New Zealand Herald newspaper also quoted Defence Minister Peeni Henare as saying that New Zealand troops had helped create the current conditions in the country.

OPERATION CARIBBE 2021

Canada's support to U.S.-led enhanced counter-narcotics operations in the eastern Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea.

CP-140 Aurora
39-person detachment
2 liaison officers in Key West, Fla
~150 flying hours
Coast-to-coast surveillance
Departed January 21

HMCS Brandon
~40-person crew
U.S. Coast Guard detachment

HMCS Saskatoon
~40-person crew
U.S. Coast Guard detachment

Eastern Pacific Ocean
Both ships departed February 18

HMCS Moncton
~40-person crew
U.S. Coast Guard detachment

Caribbean Sea
Departed January 22

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National Defence **Défense nationale**

“Money, Money, Money...” continued from page 1

ciative audience. Mea culpa!




Anyway, to business. DND is in a big world-of-hurt! MND is going to come in to this Conference like a lame duck. Depending on whose figures you use, our GDP is down by something between 5 or 6% over last year. The most optimistic prediction I can find is that of the OECD which says we may re-grow some 3.5% of that back this year. That means we’ll still be way, way down in the hole come next Christmas; still negative some 2 percent. But, it’s worse than that. Pre-COVID 19, Canada had promised to get us to the reduced but agreed goal that we would be spending 2% of GDP on National Defence by 2024. We lied! Even without COVID 19 as an excuse, Canada can’t reach that 2024 goal until...well, I just can’t find a year when we’d actually get there. I’ll be toes-up long before then. Strong; Secure; Engaged is an embarrassing joke! We’re not, and, stumbling along as we are, it seems like we’re just not ever going to get where we should be. There’s nothing like the kind of money desperately needed for modern warships and combat aircraft, plus a long overdo NORAD upgrade. I’ve completed seven ZOOMs already this year. Not

counting CDA’s upcoming three-day mid March marathon, I’ve got three more ZOOMs booked. I usually file at least one question for each event. I’m working up one now for MND. But, it’s a three-day conference. If you have a question for any of the twenty-seven panelists, and, haven’t registered as part of the now thousand plus audience, contact Ed or I or CDA direct with an attributable question.

I’m not sure of the origin of this quote, but it’s apropos: ***No game is ever won by spectators!***

This Musing Column is again that of Colonel (Retd) W.J. (Bill McCullough, MSC, CD, a Past President of this Institute. For 16 years, he was also Chair of our Military & Security Committee. The views and conclusions expressed here are his own.



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 if you need help.