

London Group Provides Army Intelligence to All

SQUILLAN

By DREW MIDDLETON DEC 27 1971

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LONDON, Dec. 23 — The colonel who runs a section of Israeli intelligence said the figures on Egyptian tank strength must be right: "That's what the institute says they are and the institute is very accurate."

This tribute in Tel Aviv reflected the solid prestige of the International Institute for Strategic Studies among professional military men, diplomats and students of security affairs.

The Military Balance, the institute's annual report on the world's nuclear and strategic forces, and the yearly Strategic Survey can be seen on the desks of generals in Saigon, Heidelberg and Amman.

There are no Soviet or Chinese names among the institute's more than 1,300 members, but there is reason to believe that the organization's publications are studied as closely in the East as in the West.

Reprints From East Bloc

Survival, the institute's monthly magazine, often reprints articles from Communist military publications and the Adelphi Papers, also published by the institute, deal with Communist as well as Western security problems.

This respected, influential institution has a staff of only 32 and an annual budget of \$320,000. Its home is the fourth floor of a handsome Georgian house on Adam Street off the Strand in London.

The office, modest to the point of austerity, has that vaguely amateur atmosphere associated with Britain's Secret Intelligence Service, known to its members as "the old firm." Despite this superficial similarity, which has encouraged romantics to see a connection, there is no link between the two organizations.

The institute nowadays is largely self-supporting. The sale of its publications brings in \$225,000 a year. The Ford Foundation, the Rockefeller Brothers Foundation, other American, Canadian, British and European foundations and industries contribute the remainder.

The institute today is more involved in Asian than European security problems. Of its eight Resident Associates, three are from Japan, Korea and India.

The organization is international in its membership, staff and governing council and independent of governments. Basically it is concerned with strategic questions, not simply in the military sense, but with the moral and political implications of the existence and use of armed force.

Louis-François Duchêne, the institute's director, who is of dual Swiss-British nationality, said the institute's work focuses primarily on "the rules of the game among the superpowers, the changes in their structure and policies toward one another."

The institute's second concern, Mr. Duchêne said, lies in efforts to reinforce the international security system through arms control agreements.

Europe Its First Field

Finally there is the European defense structure, the institute's original field.

Greater emphasis in the future will be placed upon the economic side of security issues. Space and money will be found for an economic associate, who will explore the complex field of defense resources and funding.

However, the institute's principal attraction to members around the world remains its accurate assessments of military strength in The Military Balance and its assessment of the shifts in power reported in The Strategic-Survey.

The institute has found that its quest for accurate information has not been as difficult as had been feared.

Governments, it seems, prefer to have accurate assessments of their military strength made public.

Much of the institute's information comes from governments and their military attachés or is volunteered by interested members of the institute.