

**LOW-INTENSITY CONFLICT:
DOES AMERICA HAVE A CHOICE?**

*A symposium on US options
regarding insurgencies,
supporting nations facing external aggression,
peacekeeping and counterterrorism operations*

*Change
engagés
en stages*

12 May 1989

Cowles Auditorium
Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of
Public Affairs
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis

**Low-Intensity Conflict:
Does America Have a Choice?**

"I believe that low-intensity conflict is the most important strategic issue facing the U.S. If we don't learn to deal with it, we risk being isolated in an increasingly competitive world..."

Gen. Wallace H. Nutting, USA

"The most active threat we face today is not high-intensity conflict, but low-intensity... This threat is manifested in a stream of hostage crises, terrorist attacks, local conflicts and insurgencies. This is our most active threat for the remainder of the century."

George Bush

"Our first great challenge in the area of low-intensity conflict is, in the next 20 years, to invent a theory of law and a structure of behavior that allows us to survive and win 'small wars' within a framework that maintains certain basic rights for every human being."

Congressman Newt Gingrich
U.S. House of Representatives

"Low-intensity conflict is the United States' response to those who could change the unjust global system that gives rise to poverty and social turmoil, particularly in the Third World."

Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer
author, War Against the Poor:
Low-Intensity Conflict and
Christian Faith

Low-intensity conflict is a strategic issue, a fact of our lives today, and a challenge for which clear U.S. policy does not exist. This one day symposium will provide an informational baseline on the subject from which the participant can build a personal position.

Low-intensity conflict is a broad term used to characterize confrontations between contending states or groups at levels below conventional war, but above peaceful competition. Waged by a combination of political, economic, informational and military instruments, it involves protracted struggle of competing principles and ideologies. Major U.S. low intensity activities, at the lower end of the conflict spectrum, include providing support for nations facing insurgent threats or for groups resisting Communist aggression, peacekeeping operations, peacetime contingency operations, and counterterrorism efforts. Military applications in low-intensity conflicts often need to be subordinated to economic and political actions. This requires an interdisciplinary approach, an approach difficult to achieve by the American foreign policy establishment.

Low-intensity conflict is a controversial foreign policy issue which needs to be examined and debated by concerned citizens. We expect a diverse audience for this symposium whose participation will be encouraged. Please join us and add your input to this critical issue.

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