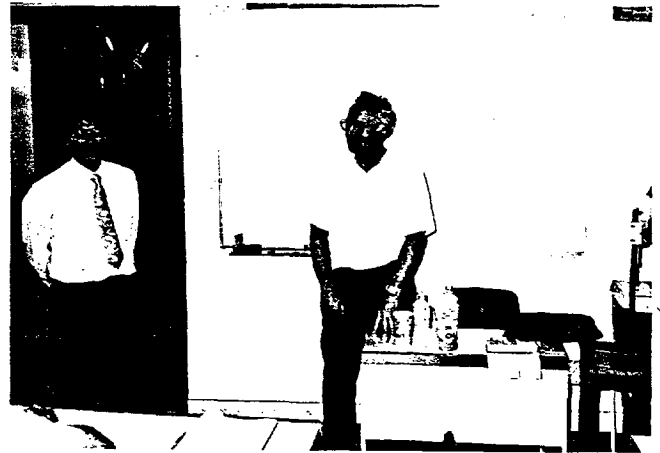


## A Veteran on U.S. Foreign Policy

Professor Robert McKain Smith, an expert on U.S. foreign policy, recently visited Hong Kong and was invited to give a talk to IES members on 9th of May. Professor Smith was a former military personnel and he joined the U.S. Army in the Second World War. During his career with the U.S. military, he had been stationed in Korea, Japan and Vietnam. He once worked in the U.S. State Department on U.S. policies towards China and Japan. He has also published over 30 reports on the economic, historical, political and military developments of many Asian and African countries for the U.S. government. Professor Smith has over the years taught at Johns Hopkins University, MIT, the State Department's Foreign Service Institute and Chaminade University of Honolulu.

In his speech, Professor Smith outlined U.S. foreign policy and military strategy in the Pacific Region, which he said is strongly influenced by that of the Soviet Union. According to him, Russian foreign policy has undergone a significant change since Gorbachev came to power in 1985. Having realized that she has over-extended herself in military expenses and other expansionist activities over the past decades, the Soviet Union has begun to pull out. And a careful examination of many countries with Soviet military presence and influence (like Vietnam, Cambodia, Cuba and Afghanistan) has led Professor Smith to conclude that the Soviet Union has switched to a 'hands-off' policy in these countries. The reason behind such a switch is that the Soviet Union can no longer afford expensive aids to her allies, herself being in deep economic trouble. In fact, it is estimated that Soviet economic and military aids to Vietnam alone



*Professor Smith and Mr. Lee Kui Wai of IES*

each runs as high as US\$1 billion per year, while military aids to Cuba amount to US\$1 million per day. In addition, she has learnt a hard lesson in Afghanistan, namely, that military intervention in another country can be very expensive, both financially and politically.

In the opinion of Professor Smith, it is in the interests of the United States to respond actively to the disarmament initiative of the Soviet Union. And while there was no sign of the Soviet Union reducing her presence in the Pacific Region over the past six months, where she has stationed one-third of her naval strength. Professor Smith is hopeful that disarmament and diffusion of tension in both Western Europe and the Pacific Region will become a reality in the next decade.

### 1997 and Government Intervention

*(Continued from page 7)*

indirect taxes on a few goods, as Adam Smith suggested. That way, people would not have to reveal the intimate details of their finances to the government.

### New Members (May - August 1989)

Associates:      Yeung Wing On, Henri  
                          Yau Tat Wang, Dennis  
                          Lau Tat Chiu, Edward  
                          Lee Kwok Wing, Kevin

### Conclusion

Guaranteeing human rights in Hong Kong is not just a matter of signing documents. It also involves establishing institutions that resist government encroachment, and which can become counterweights to government power. Such institutions are necessary in the economic sphere as well as in the political sphere. Devising them is a challenge fully worthy of the great ingenuity of the populace of Hong Kong. I know I speak for many people abroad when I say that I desperately hope Hong Kong can meet the challenge.

### Editorial Board

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