

With humility, but with great satisfaction it is brought to the attention of the academic community of the School of Intelligence and Counterintelligence, as well as of the national and international academic community, *Perspectives in Intelligence* magazine No. 17, thus share the results of the academic discussion that has been arising among the members of the Research Center of the School of Intelligence and Counterintelligence, in collaboration with researchers from other centers and institutions of higher education. Although it has not been an easy dialogue, it has certainly been helpful, since it has served to significantly enrich both the form and content of the journal, and above all to strengthen the sense of academic quality, which is supposed to exist among researchers, since the purpose and *raison d'être* of scientific research is the advancement of knowledge and, of course, the search for solutions to the most felt problems of that knowledge, disciplines and society.

On this occasion we are accompanied by a well-known group of academics and researchers, who have developed key aspects of the 1962 missile crisis; of geostrategy in Colombian foreign policy; of cities in the 21st century; of the challenges of democracy; of the democratic security policy, these, as a determining means for investigative success; of the socio-economic problems of Latin America; the contribution of military expenditure; food security and an environmental aspect such as the swamp of Ayapel.

It is expected that the research articles developed in this issue will be accepted by researchers and the scientific community, increase their knowledge, generate concerns and produce criticism, which is the necessary and indispensable element to boost and promote the objective of placing better indexing standards this publication.

We thank the researchers and the scientific community, and we invite them to continue contributing their writings –as articles of research, reflection or review–, with the goal of satisfying the academic and scientific needs of students, researchers, institutions, the State and society.

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