

# Editorial

THIS number of the *Journal* contains a number of articles which either directly or in passing focus on the 'systems approach' to the study of international affairs. Inevitably there is some overlap in the discussion of various aspects of this approach, but the Editor makes no apology for this on the grounds that the perceptive reader will gain some insight into the debate that has surrounded the relevance of systems analysis for an understanding of international politics. Indeed, this particular number has a pronounced 'behavioural' image and it is hoped that the lawyers, historians and the more 'traditional' political scientists among our readership will acknowledge the legitimacy of devoting the contents of virtually an entire number to themes which preoccupy the thinking of an increasing number of British scholars.

The substance of the articles is, of course, open to challenge and argument and the Editor welcomes considered replies from those who remain sceptical about the merits of systems theory and foreign policy analysis. In particular, it would be helpful to have comments and reactions from lawyers and historians in the hope that the *Journal's* objective of fostering interdisciplinary debate will be significantly advanced.

J. E. SPENCE