

FORESIGHT CANADA (FC)
Report
to
MP PC - 28/29 July 2005 - Chicago

Item 1: Renewal Project

1. Project target: Renewal by 2020.
2. Phase 1 of the one-year project will be complete end-July 2005.
 - ...nothing was as it seemed.
 - ...nothing is as was proposed.
3. FC, the external-to-client participant produced two major papers, all with a 2020 perspective:
 - History-altering issues and events and S & T needed (and possible) for meeting threats and exploiting opportunities.
 - Culture of resilience, adaptability and transformability
4. The acceptance and use of “hard” sciences and technologies (S & T) are increasingly governed by factors from the “soft” sciences and “technologies” (s&t), i.e., those of politics, economics, law, society, and (human) security.
5. The input of MP members received at the April morning meeting in Brussels was valuable.
6. A document is being prepared for the MP website that summarizes the material produced by FC.

Item 2: MP Initiative on Education in foresight

1. FC supports and is very interested in the MP initiative.
2. The on-line course on technology for distributed learning given by the Naval Post-Graduate School (Monterey) (NPS) was taken by DH. Several aspects of the contents of that course are relevant to the MP initiative.
3. The current agenda of the Canadian Defence Academy (CDA) includes items that imply potential opportunities for connections among the MP, FC and the CDA:
 - futures of education.
 - (the future of) the definition of “to be educated”.
 - military or civilian teachers, learners and learning: How many and how big should the differences be, and So What?

- how education is “given” and “received” and measured;
 - “in-school” diplomas, degrees, post-grad degrees and post-doc qualifications.
 - titled courses, seminars and symposiums given by credible learning institutions and or at established commercial firms.
 - “equivalent” learning.
 - experience as learning.
 - tests and examinations.
 - trail and error (fail) and trial and correct (success).
 - the place for imagination.
 - the imposed sequence of education: Why does a brilliant child have to pass through Public School, and or High School and or receive an undergraduate degree before being allowed to undertake (post-graduate level) studies (s)he is clearly ready for and able to do well?

Item 3: FC Initiative

1. Foresight Canada in preparing the establishment of a permanent Canadian research center for strategic foresight.
2. Updates will be provided at future meetings of the MP PC.

Item 4: The Proteus Consortium

1. *Purpose:* Better option-development and decision-choice in a complex, multi-faction setting. From 2002 to date, the complex setting used is the conflict in contemporary Iraq.
2. *Platform:* Protean media. This is a real-time, computer-assisted, genetic algorithm that allows players to game the “complex, multi-faction setting” without reality-limiting rules. To prevent the game from getting out of hand, each faction has a facilitator to apply “common sense”.
3. *Performance to date:*
 - The US-Canada consortium began with a Dec 2002 meeting between two Canadians and a group of US analysts, gaming specialists, cryptographers, CIA staff and DoD officials at the National Reconnaissance Office, near Washington.
 - The first full test of Protean media took place in June 2003, at the Canadian Embassy in Washington. Eight teams “gamed”; seven representing factions carrying out and or supporting (legal and or illegal) violence and one – “others” – representing the UN, business, NGO, media and civil society. The “others” team won conclusively.

- The Proteus Consortium has received funding from a strategy directortate in the CIA to hire a full-time “secretary”. (S)he will be housed and resourced at the Army War College in Carlisle Pennsylvania, and be the point of contact and manager for day-to-day Proteus Consortium operations and administration.
- The next test of a second generation Protean media will be at the U of Maryland in mid-August, sponsored by the US National Cryptology Centre, among others. The one day game will be the centerpiece of three days of discussion on the future of the Proteus Consortium and preparation and evaluation of the test itself. Special attention will be given to the role of bias in decision-making and how Protean media might be used to improve security in its broadest sense.
- The test after the August one is being planned for Ottawa in October 2005. The Office of the National Science Advisor will be the host organization. It is hoped the CDA will sponsor a team for the first test in Canada.

The MP SOFI is a valuable tool for “informing” the algorithm and the players in ways that reduce the challenges of a game “without” rules.

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