

# Conflict Prevention Newsletter



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CONFLICT PREVENTION AND TRANSFORMATION

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The next issue of this newsletter will be published on December 1. All contributions and suggestions can be sent to the European Platform before the end of October.

## European Platform one year later

A year and a half ago, the largest-ever public gathering on conflict prevention was held in the Netherlands. The Amsterdam Appeal, an Action Plan for European leaders, was drawn up. It presented terms for an effective EU approach to preventing conflict, urging NGOs to make their work on this new field more effective by building coalitions and sharing information and experiences.

In half a year, a European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation came into being. In June 1997, at a meeting in Bonn, agreement was reached on the mission and tasks of this Platform and experienced individuals accepted seats on the Platform's Steering Committee. At the same moment, in the Netherlands, the idea for the creation of an European Centre on Conflict Prevention was launched. By August, the NCDO (Dutch Commission for International Cooperation and Sustainable Development), agreed to help create the Platform, as

well as Centre, through guaranteeing the core funding for the first three years. Two months later we moved into a beautiful historic building in the centre of Utrecht, courtesy of Utrecht University. Plans to create a Centre for Conflict Studies in Utrecht resulted from this cooperation. This relationship with Utrecht University also meant a big boost for achieving one of the main goals of the European Centre: creating an academic chair on conflict prevention.

Thus, the European Platform - as well as the European Centre, which accommodates the secretariat of the Platform - has recently celebrated its first birthday.

What has been achieved in this year? Let me sum up a few important results here:

- The Platform and Centre have proven their right to existence. More and more organizations are joining the open network of the Platform. Cooperation among them has already proved its value, while many effective initiatives have been launched.
- The initiatives and tasks of the Platform have been widely appreciated, even outside Europe. This has resulted in a growing international orientation within the Platform, especially in the direction of the US and Canada, as well as Africa. Evidence of this is the creation of an international advisory board for the newly launched 'conflict prevention surveys'-project, as well as the role the Platform plays in the organization of the Hague Appeal for Peace.
- To fulfil its function as an information clearinghouse facilitating the sharing of knowledge and experience, the Platform has launched several products this year. One of them is the new Directory on Prevention and the Management of Violent Conflicts, an updated and greatly enhanced publication, compared to its 1996 predecessor. Reactions on this Directory are favourable (see some examples elsewhere in this issue). You are reading another important visiting card of the Platform right now: the first world-wide newsletter on conflict prevention. It has also been greeted with wide appreciation. And, last but not least: the recently created website is rapidly developing into an indispensable connection point for interested organizations and institutions worldwide.
- In January, we started our Media project

*'I congratulate you on the publication of the update of the Directory and express my support for the work of the European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation in facilitating cooperation among the vast number of non-governmental organizations working in the field of conflict prevention and management.'*

**Kofi A. Annan, secretary-general of the United Nations**

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# Europe begins to tackle the spread of arms

**Irresponsible arms exports, illicit arms trafficking and the vast numbers of light weapons in circulation in regions of instability are fuelling conflicts across the globe. The international community is at last beginning to respond to these pressing challenges and there have been a spate of recent initiatives (see box for summary). Significant steps have been taken in the EU during the UK Presidency, and there are important opportunities coming up to ensure that policy is effectively translated into practice. ♦ By Andy McLean, Saferworld, and Eugenia Piza-Lopez, International Alert**

One of the major achievements of the Presidency was the agreement of an EU Code of Conduct on arms exports. European Union countries are responsible for 40% of the global arms bazaar and steps to bring this trade under control are long overdue. A network of over 600 EU NGOs (some of whom are members of the European Platform) has campaigned for a Code for over five years and, whilst the final text agreed by member states falls short of the restrictive document NGOs have been advocating, the agreement is an important first step towards the development of a common, responsible approach to arms exports from EU countries. As Irish foreign minister, David Andrews, said at the time, 'Half a loaf is better than none. We see this as a beginning - it has to be built on and improved.'

The Code contains eight criteria which will govern exports from all member states. Whilst not as detailed as NGOs and some governments had hoped, the guidelines do say that member states will take into account the effect of arms sales on inter alia human rights,

regional stability and economic and social development. The strongest commitment is that EU governments will not issue export licences if there is a clear risk that the arms will be used for internal repression. The key now will be how the member states implement the criteria in practice.

The acid test of the Code will be whether it deters 'undercutting' - the practice of one country granting an export which another has turned down. If any member state refuses an export licence because it is deemed to contravene the criteria, this has to be circulated to other member states. If another EU country then wants to take up that licence it first has to only consult with the country which denied it. After consultation the deal can go ahead. It remains to be seen whether this limited discussion will be effective. NGOs are urging more detailed consultations on undercutting between all 15 member states as an urgent priority.

'Achieving greater transparency' in European arms sales is one of the stated objectives of the Code. Yet there are no

mechanisms within the agreement to achieve this. EU countries have to circulate to each other in confidence annual reports of their national arms exports and implementation of the Code. These will be discussed, along with ways to strengthen the Code, at an annual review meeting within the Council of Ministers which will then produce a consolidated report. However, neither the consolidated, nor the national, reports will be published or put before national parliaments or the European parliament. This is disappointing. If governments are to be held accountable for arms exports, parliamentarians and the public need to know which countries are selling arms where. In a democratic Europe this should be a right not a privilege.

The forthcoming German Presidency of the EU is a key opportunity to strengthen the Code as it is expected that this is when the first annual review will be held. It is vital that NGOs and the public encourage their governments to back up their pledges to 'go further' by publishing the annual reports of exports and tightening consultation procedures. Further steps such as prior parliamentary scrutiny of export licences are also crucial.

## **Illicit trafficking**

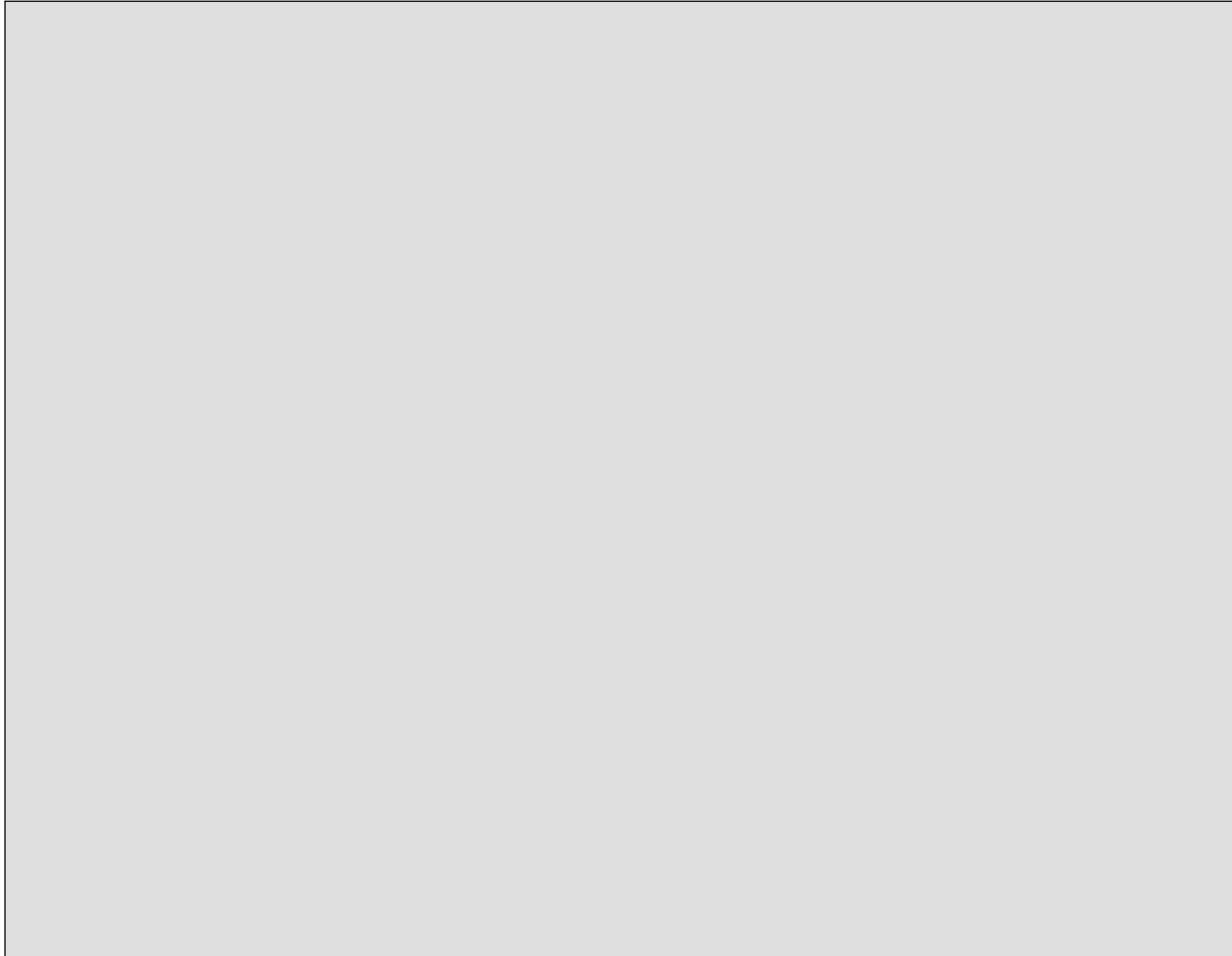
The other main arms initiative during the UK Presidency was a seminar in South Africa, sponsored by the UK Government, on implementing the EU Programme to Prevent and Combat Illicit Trafficking in Conventional Arms. (agreed in June last year). The vast numbers of arms circulating in the region are undermining development, fuelling conflict and preventing post-conflict reconstruction.

### **Recent initiatives to control arms exports and prevent illicit trafficking**

- The 'Programme for preventing and combating illicit trafficking in conventional arms' agreed by EU Member States in June 1997;
- The 'Inter-American convention against the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials' agreed by the Organisation of American States in November 1997;
- The establishment of the UN Panel of Governmental Experts on small arms in December 1995 and the publication of a report and recommendations in July 1997. A new follow-on UN Group of Experts was convened in May 1998, to examine international efforts to address the problem of light arms proliferation and

illicit trafficking, and to prepare a framework for possible co-ordinated global action. It is due to report in summer 1999.

- A resolution by 56 countries within the UN Economic and Social Council's (ECOSOC) Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice calling for a legally binding international instrument to combat illicit firearms trafficking in April 1998.
- The Group of Eight industrialised nations (G8) declaring their support for the development of an international instrument to control illicit trafficking in firearms in May 1998.
- The European Union Code of Conduct on arms exports agreed by EU Member States in June 1998.
- 'An international agenda on small arms and light weapons: Elements of a common understanding' agreed by 21 states in Oslo in July 1998.



The seminar, organised by Saferworld (UK) and the Institute for Security Studies (South Africa), brought together government officials from the EU and Southern African countries to develop an 'action plan' to help tackle the problem. The plan has four main elements:

- combating illicit trafficking, for example, by increasing the capacity of police and customs to investigate illicit weapons flows and supply routes;
- strengthening regulations and controls on accumulation and transfers of arms, for example, by establishing a Southern African Code of Conduct on arms exports;
- promoting the removal of arms from society and the destruction of surplus arms, for example, by developing appropriate programmes for the demobilisation and reintegration of ex-combatants when conflicts end; and
- enhancing transparency, information exchange and consultation on arms in Southern Africa, for example, by establishing a regional register of small arms.

Now that the action plan has been developed, it needs political

endorsement. Interpol has already announced its support, and it looks likely that the action plan will be on the agenda of the EU-Southern African Development Community summit, held under the auspices of the Austrian Presidency of the EU, in Vienna in November. Hopefully ministers will take this chance to give it their high-profile support.

Another priority to help tackle illicit arms trafficking is applying the EU Programme to Central and Eastern Europe. Recent media reports of small arms flows from Bulgaria to the Congo, Eritrea and Ethiopia have illustrated that CEE countries are still a source of vast quantities of cheap, surplus weapons. In an important recent development, the EU associated countries have issued a declaration in support of the objectives of the EU Programme. It is up to EU member states now to help develop the capacity of the associated countries to implement it and to encourage them to make this an urgent political priority.

***International campaign***

Meanwhile, parallel discussions are

gathering pace between like-minded governments on the one hand and NGOs on the other about the development of an international campaign on light weapons. A group of governments met in Oslo in June and NGOs met in Toronto in August. The two groups will then come together at a conference, 'Sustainable Disarmament for Sustainable Development', organised by the Belgian Government in Brussels, 12 & 13 October. If all goes according to plan, NGOs hope to agree the campaign at a conference on 14 October.

Preventing the proliferation and unlawful use of arms is a key part of the conflict prevention agenda, and it is exciting that real practical steps are now being taken. Governments and NGOs are beginning to get to grips with this vital but complex issue and the next few months see some important opportunities for progress. These chances should be seized upon by the European Platform on Conflict Prevention and Transformation.

*To receive regular E-mail bulletins on developments in the arms field, please contact [sworld@gn.apc.org](mailto:sworld@gn.apc.org).*

# News from the European Platform

The European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation is a network of European non-governmental organisations involved in the prevention and/or resolution of violent conflicts in the international arena. Its mission is to facilitate the exchange of information and experience among participating organisations, as well as to stimulate co-operation and synergy. The Platform strives to be an open network of key organisations working in this field, and aims to include participant organisations in all European countries. Optimally, these should be national platforms or networks, such as have already been established - or are

being established - in Belgium, Finland, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation, Switzerland and the UK. Where no such national focal point exists, the Platform aims to support the creation of one. Apart from national platforms, international NGO networks are also invited to participate. By organising bi-annual Platform meetings - London, March 1998; Bonn, November 7-8, 1998 - in the country holding the EU-Presidency, the Secretariat brings the participating organisations together to discuss relevant issues of the moment, from thematic issues to institutional questions.

## Activities in 1998/1999

### Information clearing-house

The European Platform proposes to function as an information clearing-house, facilitating the sharing of knowledge and experience between participating organisations. This requires the identification of relevant actors, experts, publications and events in the relevant areas.

To encourage this, an updated and extended version of 'Prevention and Management of Violent Conflicts, An International Directory' has recently been published. As both editions of this directory have received a very positive reception, regular updates will follow. Research for a third edition will begin in 1999 and it will be published in 2000. Another publication will be released in 1999 containing approximately 60 surveys on prevention activities in European and African conflict areas, focusing especially on key NGOs/institutions and resource persons. Some twenty surveys have already been written, and most of these are included in the 1998 edition of the International Directory. Another source of information is the quarterly Newsletter of the Platform, of which the first issue came out in March 1998. The Platform's web-site was launched in June and is now fully operational.

### Education and Training

Educational and awareness-raising activities aimed at expanding public support for preventative action will be targeted at myriad actors: the public at large, the media, formal education systems, NGOs, churches, etc., through many different channels. The Platform has published an inventory of European universities and training institutions with programmes related to conflict prevention and resolution.

This brochure was compiled jointly with the Dutch training centre Kontakt der Kontinenten and the Centre for Conflict Resolution, Bradford University, UK.

### Media

A Platform working party will act as catalyst and advisor in the development of a series of media productions to be made by European film producers and broadcasters under the working-title 'To end all wars'. This should be ready in time for the May 1999 Hague Appeal for Peace. Efforts will also be made to promote the use of existing audio-visual material on conflict prevention and transformation.

### Advocacy & lobbying

A boost should be given in the coming period to recent initiatives at the European level e.g. the establishment of a Policy Planning and Early-Warning Unit and the adoption of a Commission Communication on the European Union and the Issue of Conflicts in Africa. Platform advocacy activities will be linked with the bi-annual rotation of the EU-presidency, so the particular National Platform of the country which holds the EU-presidency will be expected to initiate advocacy strategy aimed at getting the key elements of The Amsterdam Appeal adopted.

**European Platform meeting Bonn, November 7-8**  
**Focusing on several large events in the coming years, like the NGO Campaign on Light Weapons, The Hague Appeal for Peace, Unesco Culture of Peace, as well as the conflict in Kosovo, and internal Platform-issues.**

Another key issue to be pursued is the debate on a Code of Conduct for conflict prevention organisations.

The Platform's **Steering Group** of is composed of representatives of: Berghof Research Centre, Germany; Centre for Applied Studies in International Negotiations (CASIN), Switzerland; Centre for the Study and Management of Conflict - Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia; European Centre for Common Ground, Belgium; European Centre for Conflict Prevention, The Netherlands; Flemish NGO Consultation on Conflict Prevention/NCOS, Belgium; International Alert, UK; KATU Citizens Security Council, Finland; Life & Peace Institute, Sweden; Saferworld, UK

The secretariat of the European Platform is accommodated by the European Centre for Conflict Prevention.

Publications available from the Centre:

- Prevention and Management of Conflicts - An International Directory, 1996
- Prevention and Management of Violent Conflicts - An International Directory, 1998 (\$25)
- Conflict Prevention Newsletter
- Conflict Studies: The State of the Field. 1998
- Strategies in Conflict Prevention - Report of the Seminar organized by the European Centre. 1998
- European Universities and Training Institutions on Conflict Prevention & Resolution, 1998.

## Van der Stoel accepts new Directory



On May 26th, the 1998 edition of the international directory 'Prevention and Management of Violent Conflicts' was presented to the press at the Peace Palace in the Hague. The new edition is a greatly enhanced version of the 1996 Directory. Max van der Stoel, (on the photo on the right) High Commissioner on National Minorities for the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), received the first copy from Paul van Tongeren, executive director of the

European Centre for Conflict Prevention.

Organised by Humanist Media Support, the press conference screened three documentaries by Dutch film-maker, Rob Hof, entitled 'Dangerous Silence'. One of these moving film portraits examined the gigantic reconciliation and reconstruction problems in East Slavonia. Van der Stoel, in his daily work as High Commissioner, has to tackle such projects. In his speech, Van der Stoel stressed the necessity for increased

international support for conflict prevention policy. The former Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs said that, especially in western countries, Foreign Ministries have to shift their focus from inter-state conflict to intra-state conflict. Early action is of great importance, he pointed out.

'Experiences teach us that conflict prevention can be fruitful when you become active at a very early stage', he observed, 'before positions become rigid and blood flows. Beside the human tragedies of violent conflict, even the European Ministers of Finance should realise that one has to invest more in conflict prevention policy.'

In his opinion many International Organisations still focus too much on ending violent conflicts instead of preventing them. However, 'slowness in acting seems to be a permanent factor in international policy itself,' Van der Stoel noted. 'Although progress in conflict prevention policy is observable, realising this kind of policy in practice is still going too slow.'

**Copies of the 1998 Directory can be ordered at the European Centre (\$25 + postage).**

## Warm welcome for Directory

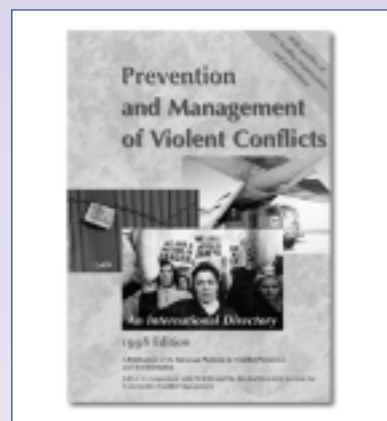
*'I congratulate you on the publication of the update and express my support for the work of the European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation in facilitating cooperation among the vast number of non-governmental organizations working in the field of conflict prevention and management. It cannot be repeated too often that, for the United Nations, preventing conflict is as important as keeping the peace. To achieve a truly effective preventive strategy, governments and civil society must be made aware of the many creative ways that exist to resolve conflicts without recourse to violence. The wide array of organizations doing this form of global peace education is impressive. The European Platform is performing an invaluable service for peace by providing the Directory as an*

*accurate reference tool for practitioners of conflict prevention and management throughout the world.'* - **Kofi A. Annan, secretary-general of the United Nations.**

*This is an excellent publication, providing the best guide to conflict prevention organizations that I have seen.* - **former US president Jimmy Carter**

*This Directory (...) provides a wealth of information for building bridges between local and external actors.* - **Jan Pronk, former Dutch Minister for Development Cooperation**

*The Directory is an essential resource tool and a most comprehensive guide to organizations in the field, academics, policy makers, NGOs and IGOs –*



**Professor Kevin Clements, Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, George Mason University, USA**

*(..) even more impressive than the first edition –* **Kumar Rupesinghe, former Secretary General International Alert**

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and, at this moment, several productions have already been realized. Possibilities for broadcasts in at least ten countries are very good. Rob Hof's documentary on the Vukovar peace mission of Max van der Stoep, the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, is an example of how fast things can go. Although production was only concluded in June, it was broadcast on Dutch television that same month, and, in September in New York, at the prestigious World Film Festival on Peace and the Environment in the UN-building.

- The project on surveys on prevention activities in conflict areas is initiated this summer. Here, the original idea was double-edged: to show a large audience the potential for conflict prevention, as well as to provide a lot of essential information to all concerned parties on who is doing what, where and when. The idea has been welcomed and applauded by many.

I am proud to say that, in such a short time, we have been able to create a Platform and Centre which gets support from so many people worldwide. Staff, volunteers, board, steering committee as well as some important co-operators have done a wonderful job so far. The constructive creative atmosphere which marks this whole enterprise is a stimulus to all.

In our second year, we plan to build on what has been achieved so far and to enter into several new activities. In September next year, we hope to start



**Board and staff of the European Centre: from left to right professor Ed. van Thijn, member of the board (former Dutch Minister of the Interior and Mayor of Amsterdam); Job Stufkens, project officer; professor Enno Hommes, chairman of the board (former Professor of Sociology at the University of Twente, the Netherlands), Monique Mekenkamp, project officer; Annoesjka Oostindiër, assistant to the director; Paul van Tongeren, executive director; Peter Meyer Swantée, member of the board (executive director of Optimix - Asset Management, chairman of HealthNet); Hans Loots, member of the board (organisation advisor, specialized in training on negotiation and conflict management). Missing at the picture are the members of the board Bea Stolte (Dutch Interchurch Aid); Robbert Smits (director of AON Insurance), professor Cees Flinterman (professor of International Law at the University of Maastricht, the Netherlands), and brigadier-general (ret.) Henny van der Graaf (executive director of the Centre for Arms Control and Verification Technology, member of the UN Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters).**

with the academic chair on conflict prevention. The Survey-project, in which we intend to describe and analyze prevention and transformation activities in conflict areas will be one of our main activities in the next three years. Creating an international network of well-known experts to support and stimulate this whole endeavour is a big challenge. Investing in the organizational

structure, as well as the human capital of our organizations, is another challenge. We hope the organizations and people who have supported us so well in our first year, will enable us to continue our work in the coming period.

Paul van Tongeren  
*Executive Director, European Centre for Conflict Prevention*

## Centre for conflict studies at Utrecht University

At present, it is not possible to follow academic courses on the subject of conflict prevention and resolution in the Netherlands. Yet increased education in the field and enhanced capacity and expertise in Europe are vital instruments in creating early warning

systems and preventive action. Hence, the European Centre is taking the lead in the establishment of an academic chair in Conflict Studies at a Dutch university. Utrecht University, which is planning to establish an interfaculty centre for conflict studies

itself, is willing to house the chair. In light of this development, the European Centre has co-published a brochure on university programmes and training centres on conflict resolution in Europe. Its partners are Kontakt der Kontinenten, a training centre in Soesterberg, The Netherlands, and the Department of Peace Studies at Bradford University (United Kingdom). On June 11, the European Centre organised a seminar entitled 'Conflict Studies: The State of the Field' at

Utrecht University. Prof. Eileen Babbitt (The Fletcher School for Law & Diplomacy, Tufts University – USA), Prof. Kevin Clements (ICAR, George Mason University – USA), Prof. Mari Fitzduff (INCORE, Ulster University, Northern Ireland) and Dr Tom Woodhouse (Centre for Conflict Resolution, Bradford University, United Kingdom) were guest speakers, while Dutch academics and government representatives presented their work.

Five central themes focused the discussions:

- The academic content and breath of conflict studies and its relation to other academic disciplines;

- the extent and impact of conflict studies on the academic world and society in general;
- foreign experiences in the development of conflict studies;
- priorities within the field of conflict studies and their relation to practice; and
- the utility of conflict studies for society and prospects for graduates in conflict studies.

The seminar turned up useful insights into setting up interfaculty study- and research programmes based on the experiences of the international institutions represented. Discussions were raised on: policy-

oriented research versus fundamental research; educational programmes and institutional issues. The existing fields of study within Utrecht University were exhibited. There, interfaculty cooperation will be established by the faculties of Arts, Law and Social Sciences. The European Centre and Utrecht University aim to start courses in conflict studies in September 1999.

*The report of the seminar 'Conflict Studies: The State of the Field', as well as the brochure, 'Conflict Resolution: University Programmes and Training Centres in Europe', can be ordered at the European Centre. Contact: Job Stufkens.*

## Field workers are pushing towards prevention

**Field workers from humanitarian and development organisations are pushing their organisations toward preventive strategies. This was one of the conclusions of the Seminar on Strategies in Conflict Prevention, which took place in The Netherlands, June 12-14 and was organised by the European Centre. Field staffers of CARE and Oxfam, working close to the horrors of war, have successfully insisted that their headquarters invest in conflict prevention. The two cases cited indicate that practice may override theory in the quest for support for conflict prevention within a wide variety of organisations.**

Sally Joss, campaign coordinator for Oxfam, said field staff of her organisation had played a key role in convincing Oxfam to engage in conflict management. She said Oxfam's decision to try to do something about violent conflicts was directly induced by appeals of field staff to headquarters in London.

For at least five years, she related, staffers in Africa and elsewhere had been pointing out to their headquarters in Great Britain that violent conflict was extremely damaging for the Oxfam development aid programmes. War caused poverty, they insisted, and any organisation aimed at reducing poverty should take responsibility for trying to prevent wars as well. It took some time for the top echelons of Oxfam to agree to commit themselves to conflict management, an area of activities that did not traditionally belong to the field of operations of a development organisation. But the field staff's persistent call for action led Oxfam to begin the 'Cut Conflict Campaign', an

ongoing effort to generate public and political support for, among other things, banning land mines and reducing the small arms trade.

John McDonald, director of the Institute for Multi Track Diplomacy (IMTD), agreed with these conclusions. He said that it was a field worker from the humanitarian organisation, CARE, who contacted his institute a few years ago to seek collaboration. To McDonald, this came as a surprise. Some years earlier, he had tried to interest CARE's top management in collaborating on preventive activities, but his overtures had remained unanswered. McDonald said that field staff began to show interest on their own initiative, unaware of their headquarters's earlier contacts with IMTD.

IMTD is now training CARE staff in peace building tactics and approaches, both in the United States and in Africa. IMTD values this partnership for CARE operates in about 70 countries,

including many conflict regions, and has thus great outreach.

Conflict prevention is a new phenomenon to many NGOs, and extending support for its concepts among human rights, development aid, and humanitarian aid organisations is seen as one of the biggest challenges. The best way to accomplish enlargement of its constituency is by building networks and partnerships, the seminar concluded.

A good opportunity for a large number of organisations to cooperate and work on conflict prevention strategies is the Hague Appeal for Peace 1999, a conference to be held in May next year in The Hague to commemorate the first international peace conference. The organizers of this large event have issued an open invitation to NGOs to participate in workshops on issues such as Early Warning and Response; Preventive Diplomacy and the United Nations, Children in Armed Conflicts; and Winning Support for Prevention.

Another upcoming opportunity for organisations to cooperate in a large, and pioneering, project is the 'Season of Documentaries' due in the spring of 1999. Under the title 'To End All Wars', the European Platform, One World Group of Broadcasters, and other organisations, are planning the production of a series of television programmes on conflict prevention. Some of these programmes have already been produced; others are still under development. The initiators invite organisations and individuals to participate in producing the series and



Debate at the seminar: Mari Fitzduff (Incore), Paul van Tongeren, and Sally Joss (Oxfam)

to generate the interest of national television networks in broadcasting the programmes.

The Institute for Multitrack Diplomacy (IMTD) learnt by experience that creating partnerships is of critical importance for organisations engaged in peacebuilding. Partnership is a way to increase the impact of one's actions. In more technical terms, partnerships also help organisations to fill voids in their own expertise and to better cope with limited resources. IMTD thinks that broadening the concept of partnership can have a strong impact on international peacebuilding. This could especially be brought about by forming a coalition with a large humanitarian organisation, such as CARE, which has worldwide presence and impact.

In another sign of willingness to collaborate in the field of conflict prevention, the seminar aroused wide support for the idea of discussing whether a Code of Conduct for NGOs should be developed. Since parties involved in conflict prevention realize that working in conflict areas is very sensitive, and that the concept of conflict prevention comprises an absolutely unlimited set of tools and approaches, they agree that guidelines may be useful. International Alert is developing plans to design such a Code of Conduct. In addition to endorsing a discussion on a Code of Conduct, participants expressed support for the increasing aspiration to develop and implement Conflict Impact Assessments.

Most participants of the seminar were

professionals who spend a major part of their working day on conflict resolution, peacebuilding and related activities. They reported on often-hazardous attempts to persuade people to invest in conflict prevention. Their missionary work, they say, is not only aimed at people from other NGOs or government officials, who often seem to cherish a professional scepticism about ideas originating from the NGO-world, but also at colleagues in their own organisations. Working on conflict prevention, as one participant put it, was like 'walking on untrodden snow'. It involved originality, insecurity and daring exploration. One of the seminar's goals was to provide an informal setting where pioneering ideas could be exchanged and discussed.

Two main categories of topics were addressed. One focused on creating strong institutional and organisational structures that could sustain conflict prevention. The other concerned developing instruments and strategies that could be of vital importance for implementing conflict prevention programmes. The latter included discussion of tools, such as well designed public and media campaigns, thorough information management, as well as professional advocacy approaches.

#### **Network building**

The construction of a national network is of great value in creating an organisational foundation for conflict prevention, participants agreed. It boosts support for the issue at the national level, both among NGOs and

the general public. It also brings together the experience of people and organisations with different backgrounds. The synergy created by the different cultures, paradigms, experiences and know-how of human rights, developing and peace organisations generates new riches for individual organisations.

However, diversity also brings some difficulties with it. It is not easy to create unity and trust between widely varying organisations. Experience with building a German national network showed that the pace in which initiators try to win support from organisations is essential. Partners need time to become familiar with ideas and concepts, and it is crucial that they feel they can influence the structure and basic goals of the network. Experience with the Canadian Peacebuilding Coordinating Committee (CPCC), a network of Canadian NGOs, NGOs, academics and other individuals from a wide range of sectors, showed that continuous renewal and admission of new people is necessary to retain a network's dynamism. After a network has been established, it takes continuous effort to maintain its effectiveness and unity.

The seminar heard of the 1997 creation of the Forum on Early Warning and Early Response (FEWER). This is a network of about 20 organisations in industrialized and developing countries. Its main purpose is to create a high quality early warning system as a basis for inciting early response. FEWER's aim is to base this on local early warning and peace building capacity. The organisations involved have taken time to agree on underlying values, for this is considered vital to the creation of a stable structure.

#### **Campaigning and using the media**

Participants of the seminar agreed that campaigning is one of the most effective strategies to win support for conflict prevention initiatives. A recent example of the success of this approach is the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), and Oxfam's Cut Conflict Campaign.

Successful campaigning requires a professional approach, participants stressed. Goals and tactics should be well thought over. Not all campaigning

is necessarily aimed at the general public; some goals may stand a better chance of being reached by addressing a limited group of decision makers. One of the major challenges, experienced campaigners said, was to go beyond one's own audience. To reach new audiences, it might become necessary to break with familiar jargon and symbols, using new imagery and cultural icons.

### Information management

Since working in conflict regions requires in-depth information, of which there already exists a huge quantity, the selection and management of information seems to be a craft NGOs need to acquire. In most cases, participants agreed, there is an overdose of information on background and root causes of conflicts, but a shortage of

information on peace initiatives. To fill this void, the European Centre for Conflict Prevention is planning to publish surveys on conflict regions that will offer both analyses/background and information on key mediating efforts and other peace initiatives. The State of The World Forum is trying to shift people's focus with the publication of a World Map of Peace Initiatives, rather than one on conflicts.

It is hard to 'sell' the message of conflict prevention and to gain political will in favour of preventive strategies, the seminar recognised. Many plans and strategies were discussed; some questions remained unsolved and unanswered. A large number of obstacles still need to be removed. These are challenges we face in the coming years.

After three days of talking, listening, thinking and brainstorming, some of the participants of the Seminar on Strategies in Conflict Prevention took the opportunity to come up with overriding guidelines. 'Be creative in building partnerships', John McDonald, of the Institute for Multi Track Diplomacy (IMTD), said. 'And be aware that conflict prevention requires a longterm commitment.'

Werner Lottje, representative of the humanitarian aid section of the Evangelische Kirche Deutschland called for 'a conscious effort to develop internship programmes in order to build a next generation of people involved in conflict prevention.'

*The report of the seminar 'Strategies in Conflict Prevention' can be ordered at the European Centre.*

## Germans to establish National Platform

In November, German organisations and individuals will establish 'Plattform Zivile Konfliktbearbeitung', a national platform for conflict prevention. This event, in Europe's largest country, is expected to establish a major step towards creating a strong European infrastructure for peacebuilding activities. The establishment of the German platform comes shortly before the German six-month EU presidency, which begins on January 1 1999 and is expected to be a first focus for the German platform's advocacy efforts.

About 50 organisations are involved; a number have already signed the Plattform Zivile Konfliktbearbeitung's Charter. The Platform is not a member organisation, but a communal project of participating individuals, organisations and institutions who maintain individual connections to the international NGO-community and other actors in civic society. Participants originate from organisations in a wide variety of fields, including human rights, peace work, humanitarian aid and development cooperation, and church organisations. Related academic institutions have also shown interest.

The first steps to establish a German Platform were taken a year and a half

ago. Last March, they gained momentum when representatives of about 50 organisations convened to discuss the feasibility, goals and structure of the new network. Subsequently, several persons and organisations discussed and contributed to the formulation of a charter which was to function as a constitution for the network. A concise document was produced, prefaced by a statement of the rationale for putting peacebuilding efforts together, and containing three articles identifying goals, areas of activities, basic values, and a code of conduct. The German Charter and the Platform's organisational methods should interest organisations in other European countries that are contemplating the establishment of their own national platforms. Lessons may be learned from the German experience.

The main goal of the network is to mutually support and strengthen participants' peacebuilding activities. Some of the network's important commitments are: exchange of information; attracting support among the general public; and widening the constituency for peacebuilding. Participants also plan to collaborate in lobbying activities as well as efforts to improve the theoretical and professional base of peacebuilding.

Consensus is considered to be a central principle in determining the actions and directions the platform will take. The Platform's basic approach will focus on subsidiarity and a decentralized working structure. Participants should not engage in cooperation for the sake of it, the Charter notes, but only if they see clear advantages and synergy in communal undertakings. However participants are invited to share all information on their activities so as to enable other network participants to build on their partners' experiences.

The European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation hopes that the German Platform will become an active player at the European level. The European Platform's working group on advocacy is designing structures and goals for lobbying. It has proposed focusing core lobbying activities at influencing EU policies, and suggested revolving the coordination among national platforms depending on which country currently maintains the rotating EU presidency. If this suggestion is shared by national platforms, the German Plattform Zivile Konfliktbearbeitung may start its activities with lobbying for peacebuilding efforts in Brussels.

# Wrestling diplomacy scores in Iran

Sports diplomacy is one of many tools to deal with violent conflict. The potential of this method was illustrated by a group of American wrestlers, who visited Iran at the beginning of this year ♦ *By John Marks*

Conflict is an emotional, as well as an intellectual process. Thus, it seems obvious that conflict prevention and conflict resolution, to be effective, must operate on the levels of both head and heart. This does not mean the best minds should not address themselves to finding ever-more intelligent ways of handling conflict. It does mean that effective responses will often be found outside conventional thinking and that the most effective methodology is likely to operate on both the intellectual and emotional levels.

My organizations, Search for Common Ground and the European Centre for Common Ground, try to take a holistic, multi-level approach to conflict, and we have developed a toolbox containing more than twenty different methods for dealing with it. These include such well-known conflict resolution techniques as mediation and facilitation and less traditional ones, like TV programs for children, popular songs, and radio soap opera. Our newest tool - and one that touches huge numbers of people in a very basic way - is sports diplomacy.

To be sure, sports is a two-edged sword. It can cause international conflict. In fact, El Salvador and Honduras once fought a soccer war that started after a match went wrong. But sports can also provide a means to bridge profound differences. For example, ping-pong diplomacy provided an opening for - but was not the cause of - a new American-Chinese relationship in the early 1970s. The American public was captivated by the sight of US ping-pong players in China, and that helped open up a whole new set of possibilities for Chinese-American relations.

Impact of this kind was exactly what my colleagues and I fantasized might be achieved when in February 1998 we worked in partnership with USA Wrestling to take an American wrestling team to Iran. This was the first time

that Americans openly, if unofficially, had represented their country in Iran since the 444 day-long hostage crisis in 1979-81.

The press called it wrestling diplomacy, and it succeeded beyond expectations. It returned the American flag to Iran - with honor, without chauvinism and in an atmosphere of mutual respect. The symbolism was extremely important, and Iran, the US, and the rest of the world were treated to an updated set of images and metaphors: On televisions everywhere, the old footage of the US flag being burned in Tehran was updated with new pictures of the flag being carried by strong athletes and cheered by Iranian spectators.

My colleagues and I got involved in the first place after we launched a project to explore how to defuse conflict between Iran and the United States. An Iranian friend pointed out that radical forces in his country were likely to criticize the presence of any Americans in Iran, but that US wrestlers would be the most difficult to attack. Not only is wrestling hugely popular, particularly with working class fans, but it occupies a special place in Iranian culture. Indeed, in traditional Persian folklore, the samurai were wrestlers. 'It is the pride of our people, an expression of Iranian character', explains Mohammad Reza Telegani, head of the Iranian Wrestling Federation.

Armed with that cross-cultural insight, my colleagues and I went looking for a way to bring American wrestlers to Iran. Through the recommendation of Bruce Laingen, the senior US official held during the hostage crisis, we were introduced first to the US Olympic Committee and then to USA Wrestling, America's national wrestling federation. We learned that USA Wrestling had been considering sending a team to compete in the Takhti Cup tournament in Tehran but was concerned about

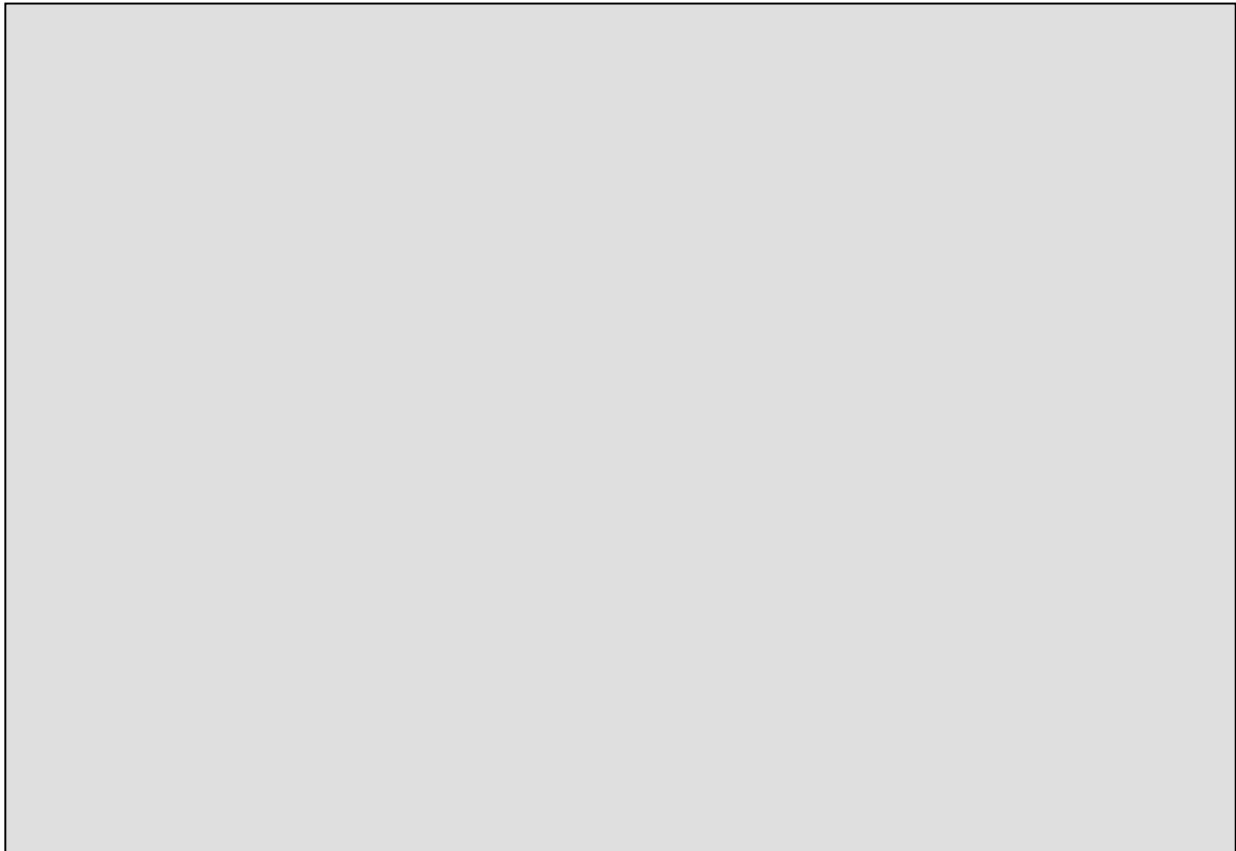
political and security issues. We entered into a working arrangement: USA Wrestling took care of the sports side; and we served as negotiator, intermediary, and facilitator with the US, Iranian, and Swiss Governments. (The Swiss represent American interests in Tehran in the absence of a US embassy.)

## *Cheering for both parties*

I had never before attended a defining sporting event, such as a World Cup final or a baseball World Series won by a ninth-inning home run. For me, the last day of the Takhti Cup on February 20 was such an event.

There were 13,000 spectators packed into the 12,000-seat Azadi arena. The crowd clearly came out to see the Americans. Whenever a US wrestler competed, the place became electric. The crowd was torn between wanting Iranians to win and wanting to show approval of the American guests. So the fans cheered for both. They roared when US Olympian Zeke Jones won a silver medal and waved the Iranian flag. There was a moment of disappointment when former Olympic champion Kevin Jackson defeated an Iranian opponent, but that was followed by a huge ovation when the two wrestlers shared a long embrace. And the fans loved it when Jackson took a victory lap around the arena, high-fiving spectators as he ran.

In the last match, Melvin Douglas faced Abbas Jadidi, who had narrowly missed a gold medal at the 1996 Olympics because of a referee's controversial decision. The crowd kept shouting 'Ja-di-di, Ja-di-di'. He was obviously the hometown favorite. He and Douglas faced off in an epic struggle. Neither could gain a real edge, and at the end of



regulation time, they were tied 3-3. In overtime, with only a minute left, Jadidi managed to get behind Douglas and pick up his legs. Douglas struggled to escape. For 20 agonizing seconds, the American showed almost superhuman resolve in not being flipped. And then Jadidi turned over Douglas and won the match.

Exhausted, the wrestlers collapsed on the mat and then quickly rose to hug each other. The crowd screamed the familiar refrain, 'Ja-di-di, Ja-di-di'. But they alternated it with 'Doug-las, Doug-las'.

Minutes later, Jadidi carried a large portrait of Ayatollah Khomeini as he walked to the podium to accept his medal. Douglas followed him, holding a picture of Iran's current supreme leader, Ayatollah Khamenei. The fans roared their approval. While at the beginning of the match, this same crowd had loudly demonstrated disapproval for Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, the defeated, hard-line presidential candidate who sat in the box of honor, now they appreciated Douglas' gesture of respect toward the Islamic Republic. (I later asked Douglas how he came to carry Khamenei's picture. He said that an official with the

Iranian team asked him to and he did not want to refuse.)

Melvin Douglas and Abbas Jadidi were not official representatives of their countries. They were citizen diplomats who, through sports, were able to touch deep-seated feelings. In the process, they demonstrated an alternative model for how their two countries could

interact: They competed fiercely, but did so within mutually accepted rules. They recognized they had differences, but they allowed their common humanity to triumph.

*John Marks is President of Search for Common Ground in Washington and the European Centre for Common Ground in Brussels.*

## Vacancies



### Political Analysts for the Balkans

#### *The International Crisis Group (ICG)*

ICG is a private, multinational advocacy organisation that seeks to provide international decision-takers with an independent source of information, analysis and ideas concerning complex international crises. For immediate or future

employment as members of an ICG field team of political analysts based in one of the following countries or areas: Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Albania, Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina ICG seeks several political analysts.

**Interested applicants should send a copy of their CV with a covering letter by mail or fax to: Alain Destexhe, President, ICG, Rue des Minimes 26, 1000 Brussels, Belgium. Fax: +32 2 502 50 38.**

## Profile

# ACCORD: Creating African solutions to African problems

The 1990s have witnessed the emergence of a growing conviction that Africa has the potential not only to control its own affairs and deal with its own problems, but has something definitive to offer the rest of the world. In some quarters this move is being hailed as the beginnings of a new African renaissance ♦ *By Ian Henderson-Wille, Communication & Information Manager ACCORD*

For a long time the rest of the world has been asking when Africa is going to take responsibility for her problems. History has shown, of course, that those on the outside have often been far from passive observers of Africa's travails - witness the Arabic slave traders of the 18th century, the European imperialists of the 19th and the Russian and American Cold War masters of the 20th century. It is only over the last few decades, therefore, that Africans have once again begun to regain a semblance of control over Africa's destiny, notwithstanding the omnipresent and omnipotent power of global markets and political associations.

The African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) is one of a group of institutions who believe that Africa and Africans have the skills, expertise and experience to answer the questions posed by the crises facing us. ACCORD's motto is 'Creating African Solutions to African Challenges' and our focus is the transformation of conflict on the continent.

In many African countries the dissolution of colonial rule around the middle of this century was followed by the establishment of first-generation governments propped up by strong military regimes. Structures of civil society were very weak, having been suppressed in the interests of external control. When the Cold War came to an end the nature of conflict on the continent changed irrevocably. Inter-state conflicts funded by partisan superpowers with vested

interests were replaced by a proliferation of intra-state conflicts contested by a plethora of armed groups with various degrees of popular support. Certainly a continent awash with easily-accessible light weapons and minimal control, affords every ambitious leader the potential to start a civil war, but a more fundamental problem underlies this reality. The development of democracy in many African states has been a tortuously slow process. Organs of civil society do not offer a disaffected populace the means to challenge power in their societies. Faced with no other options and without incentive or encouragement to do otherwise, people who are unhappy go to war about it.

Since our inception in 1992, ACCORD's

answer to this has been to empower institutions of civil society, thereby aiming to create the potential for finding solutions to conflict situations. Our core business from the beginning has been training. All of our training programmes incorporate elements of conflict management - for example, when training foreign service diplomats, military and police personnel and civil society representatives are trained in civil society peacekeeping, we always include a component on general conflict management skills. ACCORD trains across a range of sectors, including youth, women, the public sector, and those involved in peace operations, targeting leaders and 'movers and shakers' as the people who can most impact the lives of others.

ACCORD operates a two-pronged strategy of conflict transformation - on the one hand building capacity through training-based empowerment, and on the other intervening directly in conflict situations. The changing nature of conflicts since the end of the Cold War has made international first-track diplomacy increasingly difficult, for a number of reasons. Governments do not like rebel movements to be granted the acknowledgement that might sustain their cause. In many cases leadership of rebel movements is diffuse or deliberately faceless in order to avoid being targeted. The role of NGOs in second-track diplomacy has thus become increasingly important.

In response to this need, ACCORD launched a Preventive Diplomacy Forum last year at an event hosted by President Nelson Mandela and attended by a number of eminent individuals who will play an active role in future interventions as members of that board. ACCORD's Intervention Programme is currently assessing conflicts in countries from the Great Lakes (Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi),

Horn of Africa (Sudan and Ethiopia), SADC (Zimbabwe and Lesotho) and West Africa (Liberia and Nigeria) regions with a view to compiling appropriate plans of action for interventions in those countries. At ACCORD, however, we are increasingly aware that no intervention plan can be successful without access to one important resource: information.

Much has been made in recent times of the term 'global village'. It is true that we are living in an era where access to information through new technologies has enabled traditional boundaries of time and

space to crumble. Yet crucial questions remain about the control and interpretation of this information. Many of us are concerned that Africa stands to be left behind in the race to command what will be the currency of the modern era.

In response to these challenges in the conflict arena on the continent, ACCORD is planning for the establishment of a Responsible Information Management project. The core of this project will be a conflict trends information project called ACCNET, a vast database of information on current and emerging conflicts on

the continent. Although still at a planning stage, it is envisaged that such an information network will facilitate initiatives around early warning and early-action. Partners, both African and international, have been identified for the project and we anticipate that it will be launched in the second half of this year.

Central to ACCORD's vision is the conviction that Africa must build the expertise and capacity to take control of our own destiny. With our own small contribution we aim to play a part in realising this vision for our continent. <

# A time to abolish war

## *Hague Appeal for Peace 1999*

The Hague Appeal for Peace 1999 is organized and initiated by civil society, and will consist of both a major international peace campaign, and a large-scale global conference to be held in The Hague in May 1999.

The Hague Appeal for Peace 1999 is a global initiative for peace committed to identifying and recommending the final steps necessary to de-legitimize war. It is a campaign that will bring together experts, activists, world leaders and citizens from all sectors of international civil society to develop specific global strategies for disarmament and nuclear abolition, the peaceful settlement of disputes and the development of international humanitarian law and the promotion of a culture of peace. Individuals and organisations are welcome to participate and will cooperate to produce The Hague Agenda for Peace. This Agenda will be comprised of working papers, resolutions and strategies for mobilization to be presented at the 1999 Conference. The Agenda will be

**Just as civilization has largely delegitimized – although not completely eliminated - slavery, colonialism, and apartheid, The Hague Appeal for Peace 1999 will dedicate itself to taking the next steps necessary to de-legitimize war. In 1899, the first International Peace Conference was held in The Hague in the Netherlands, convened by Czar Nicholas II of Russia. Today, after a century of terrible wars, civil society is planning another major end-of-century peace campaign to coincide with the anniversary of the First Hague Peace Conference.**

presented to governments and inter-governmental fora all over the world for implementation.

The Campaign for The Hague Appeal for Peace 1999 will be highlighted by a major international citizens' peace conference to be held between May 11 and 15, 1999 in The Hague. After a decade of world conferences on children, environment, human rights,

social development, population, advancement of women, and habitat, it is believed that the last major conference of the century must be on peace. This conference will address the specific items of the Agenda and provide a forum in which different elements of civil society will be able to exchange ideas, develop global linkages, and strengthen their capacity to achieve the main goals of The Hague Appeal for Peace 1999. Desmond Tutu and Graça Machel are two of the keynote speakers at the conference. Participants in The Hague Appeal for Peace 1999 will continue to work for the implementation of the Agenda upon return to their home countries.

In the past one hundred years, both the nature of war and of civil society have dramatically changed. Unimaginable weapons systems have been developed; international wars have been replaced by internal conflicts; the majority of victims are women, children and innocent civilians. The twentieth century has been the bloodiest in

One of the four strands of The Hague Appeal for Peace is 'Prevention, Resolution and Transformation of Violent Conflict'.

### WORKSHOPS

#### Central Themes

Early Warning and Response  
Strengthening Local Capacities for Peace

Coalition and Constituency Building  
Multi-Track Diplomacy  
Children and Armed Conflict  
Unrepresented Peoples

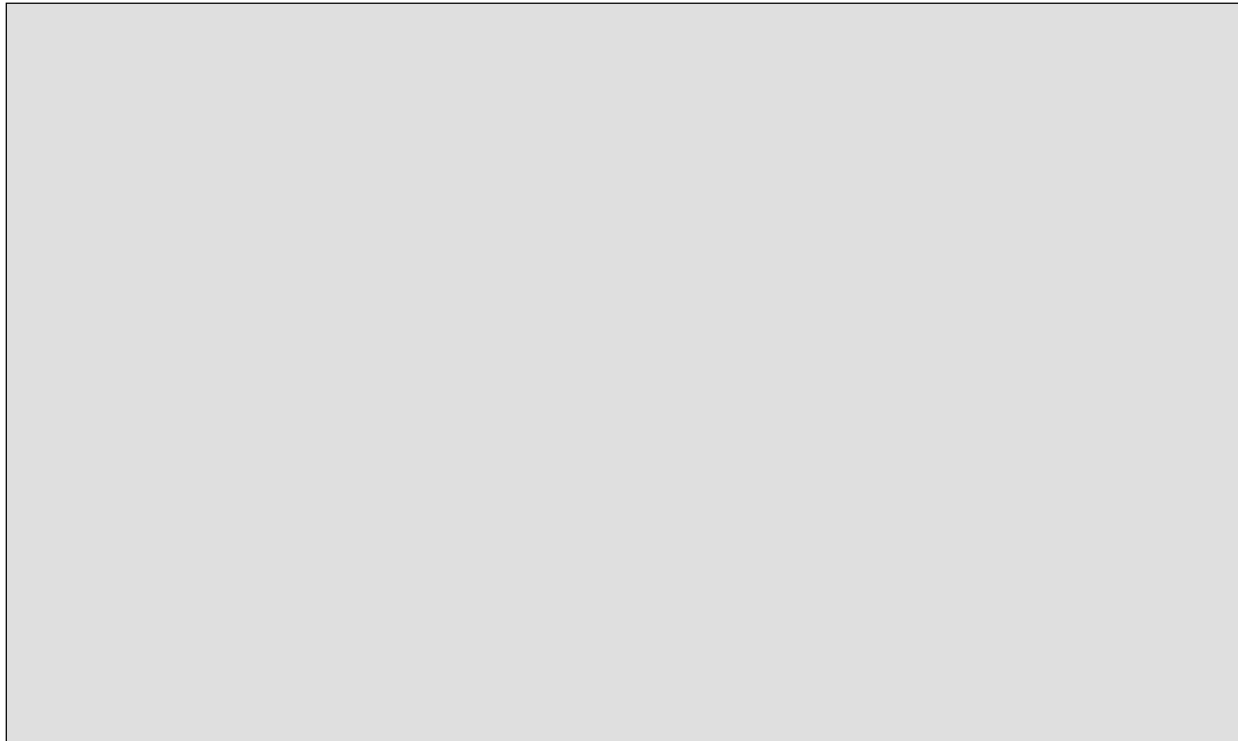
#### Sectors of Society and Conflict Resolution

The Individual and Conflict  
The Role of Volunteers  
A Gender Perspective on Conflict

Development NGOs and Conflict  
Humanitarian NGOs and Conflict

#### Instruments and Tools of Conflict Resolution

The Media and Conflict  
Civilian Peace Teams  
Education and Training  
Targeted or 'Smart' Sanctions



human history. The past 99 years have seen more death from war famine and other preventable causes than any other timespan in history. It is imperative to end this century on a note of non-violence. Although the relationship between states, societies, and citizens has grown in diversity and strength compared to a century ago, the challenges facing us today remain the same: disarmament, peace, and human security.

The Hague Appeal for Peace 1999 will therefore address the same three goals that were set at the first International Peace Conference of 1899, updated to address contemporary conditions. They are:

- Disarmament, including nuclear abolition;
- Strengthening international humanitarian law and institutions; and
- The peaceful settlement of disputes,

including conflict prevention and peace building.

In addition to these three goals, the root causes of war and advancing a global culture of peace has been added as fourth goal.

Working groups have been set up to work on each strand. The participating organisations will organise seminars, panel discussions, roundtable sessions, lectures and other activities. The European Centre for Conflict Prevention is an active participant of the strand dealing with 'Prevention, Resolution and Transformation of Violent Conflict'. The overarching aim of this strand is to articulate, activate and promote multi-track strategies for preventing, resolving and transforming violent conflict. The European Centre co-organises workshops on the following issues; early warning & response, coalition & constituency building, and media & conflict. <

*For more information contact the HAP office in the Hague or look at: <http://www.haguepeace.org>*

*Hague Appeal for Peace  
- c/o IALANA  
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2518 BC The Hague  
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phone: 31-70-3634484  
fax: 31-70-3455951  
email: [ialana@antenna.nl](mailto:ialana@antenna.nl)*

*For specific information on the conflict prevention and resolution strand, contact:*

*Patrick McCarthy  
C/o the International Peace Bureau  
41 rue de Zurich  
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phone: 41-22-741-4010  
fax: 41-22-7389419  
email: [p\\_mccarthy@iprolink.ch](mailto:p_mccarthy@iprolink.ch)*

## PIOOM World Map - 200 contemporary conflicts at a glance ...

Renowned international institutes come to different conclusions concerning current wars. While, for instance, the Swedish SIPRI reports a decline in the number of wars since 1993, the Dutch-based PIOOM institute - looking at conflicts below high intensity level on its new 'World Conflict & Human Rights Map 1998' registers no fewer than 200 on-going armed conflicts. A unique feature of this large coloured map is the indication of escalation and de-escalation trends for both high- and low-intensity conflicts.

Countries are depicted in five different colours according to their level of human rights observance. The World Conflict Map also depicts complex humanitarian emergencies, hunger, torture, and human development levels; it comes with a detailed explanatory text containing tables and statistics. This up-to-date overview of contemporary conflicts can be ordered for US\$ 10 (plus \$5 mailing costs) from PIOOM, Leiden University, Wassenaarseweg 52, 2333 AK Leiden, The Netherlands. Fax: +31-71-527 3788.

# New Literature on Preventing, Managing and Resolving Conflicts

compiled by Albert J. Jongman (PIOOM)

## CIVIL WAR, CIVIL PEACE

An introduction to conflict resolution.

Kumar Rupesinghe with Sanam Naraghi Anderlini.

London: Pluto Press, 1998, 179p.

This book, intended for a wide, non-specialist audience, is a reflection on Kumar Rupesinghe's six years as Secretary-General of International Alert. It deals with the paradigm shift in conflict prevention since UN-Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali presented his Agenda for Peace in 1992. The authors examine the nature and characteristics of contemporary warfare and present an approach to the prevention and resolution of modern internal conflicts.

They explain theoretical concepts and describe the practical experiences of International Alert. By integrating many ideas and issues raised at numerous seminars and conferences with partner organizations, they succeed in a fairly comprehensive coverage of the current field. Conflict transformation, as discussed in the book, is rooted in the belief that those who are directly affected by conflict must participate in the peacemaking process. A decline in the practice of warfare will only be possible when an international civil society emerges. The concept of conflict prevention that has emerged is based on the premise that only a network of state, non-state and community movements that complement each other's actions in creating and sustaining peace can make peaceful negotiations a more attractive option than waging war. By redefining global and national security in terms of people's security, the authors clearly demonstrate that state failure and humanitarian emergencies will remain inevitable if problems like environmental degradation, poverty and illness, extreme

nationalism and social fragmentation are not addressed in more effective ways.

## WORLD DISASTERS REPORT 1998

IFRC/RCS. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998, 198p.

This annual report, published since 1993, focuses on disasters, from natural hazards to human-induced crises, and the millions of people affected by them. It uses an interdisciplinary perspective and is backed by the expertise and resources of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, one of the most extensive and experienced humanitarian networks. The annual publication highlights issues for the future of disaster response, and considers lessons learnt over the past year. The 1998 report contains a total of 15 chapters, which focus on urban disasters, the toll of traffic accidents, shelter and reconstruction and psychological support. It also analyses the 1997 Eastern European floods, sanctions in Iraq, the rebuilding of Sarajevo, refugee camp 'cities', and urban Red Cross action in Colombia.

As the authors conclude, there are three major shortcomings in the handling of complex emergencies: 1) no forum regularly brings together all the critical actors involved in complex emergencies: aid personnel, peacekeeping forces, the commercial sector, the media and the affected countries; 2) no structure tries to provide a digest of current thinking and research on critical issues affecting complex emergencies; 3) no organization systematically evaluates how well the international community responds to major crises. The report goes a long way in filling these gaps and contains sections that are useful to practitioners as well as to policymakers.

## Other publications

- Aires, M. (Ed.) **The Role of International Cooperation in Conflict Prevention in Africa.** Helsinki: KATU, 1998, 120p.
- Alker, H., Gurr, T.R., Rupesinghe (Eds.) **Contemporary Conflicts: the Anticipation, Avoidance and Termination of Inter-group Violence.** CEWS of the ISSC, 1998.
- Barton, J.H (ed.) **Toward Strengthening International Mediation and Arbitration for Preventing Deadly Conflict.** Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 1998.
- Brown, M.E., Rosecrance, R.N. (Eds.) **The Cost-effectiveness of Conflict Prevention.** Lanham, MD: Rowan & Littlefield, 1998.
- Callahan, D. **Unwinnable Wars. American Power and Ethnic Conflict.** Hill and Wang, 20th Century Fund Book, 1998, 240p.
- Carbonnier, G. **Conflict, Postwar Rebuilding and the Economy: a Critical**
- **Review of the Literature.** Geneva: UNRISD, War-torn Societies Projects, OPW2, 1998.
- Clemens, Jr., W.C. **Dynamics of International Relations. Conflict and Mutual Gain in an Era of Global Interdependence.** Rowman and Littlefield, 1998, 512p.
- Davies, J.L., Gurr, T.R.(Eds.) **Preventive Measures. Building Risk Assessment and Crisis Early Warning Systems.** Rowman & Littlefield, 1998.
- Eade, D. (ed.) **From Conflict to Peace in a Changing World.** Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998, 200p.
- Fainberg, A., Shaw, A. **Nonlethal Technologies and the Prevention of Deadly Conflict.** Washington, DC: Carnegie Commission on Preventing Deadly Conflict, 1998.
- Jentleson, B. (Ed.) **Opportunities Missed, Opportunities Seized: Preventive**
- **Diplomacy in the Post-Cold War World.** Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 1998.
- Lake, D., Rotschild, D. (Eds.) **The International Spread of Ethnic Conflict.** Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1998, 392p.
- Miall, H., Ramsbotham, O., Woodhouse, T. **Conflict Resolution in Contemporary Conflict.** London: Blackwell, 1998.
- OECD. **Conflict, Peace and Development Co-operation on the Threshold of the 21st Century.** Paris: OECD/DAC, 1997.
- **Peace, Security and Conflict Prevention. SIPRI-UNESCO Handbook.** SIPRI, Oxford University Press, 1998.
- Weiss, T.G. **Beyond UN Subcontracting: Task-sharing with Regional Security Arrangements and Service Providing NGOs.** Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1998, 226p.

## Calendar of Events and Conferences

- **THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND ITS ROLE IN PREVENTING, MANAGING AND RESOLVING CONFLICT**

September 17-25, Cambridge, UK  
This seminar will examine how the role of the international community could be better defined in terms of international response to crisis: diplomatic action; military action; the promotion of human rights; and action in the economic and social fields to address the root causes of conflict.

Contact: John Lotherington, 21st Century Trust. Tel: +44 (171) 323 2099, Fax: +44 (171) 323 2088. E-mail: trust@21stcenturytrust.org. Website: www.21stCenturyTrust.org/1998.html

- **DEVELOPMENT AND CONFLICT**

September 24-26, Stadtschlaining, Austria  
Organised by the Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution, the EU-Platform of Austrian NGOs and the European Platform for Conflict Prevention. This conference intends to contribute to the strengthening of the work of non-governmental development organisations in conflict prone areas with regard to conflict prevention and conflict transformation, as well as to enhance their co-operation on the European level.

Contact: Arno Truger, Peace Center Burg Schlaining. Tel: +43 (3355) 2498-504, Fax: +43 (3355) 2662.

- **FUTURE OF THE CFSP AFTER THE AMSTERDAM TREATY**

September 24-25, Brussels, Belgium  
This conference, sponsored by the European Commission, will examine the functioning of the Common Foreign and Security Policy to date, and look at possibilities for the future, as the Amsterdam Treaty comes into force. There will be speakers from the European Commission, European Parliament, NATO, WEU, national

governments and parliaments, NGOs and academic institutes.

Contact: Catriona Gourlay or Sybille Bauer at ISIS Europe. Tel: +32 (2) 230 7446, Fax: +32 (2) 230 6113. E-mail: isis-europe@ping.be. Or: Martin Butcher at CESD. Tel: +32 (2) 230 0732, Fax: +32 (2) 230 2467. E-mail: cesd@agoranet.be.

- **AGENDA FOR PEACE: RECONCILIATION**

October 3-4, Loccum, Germany  
Organised by the Protestant Academy Loccum in co-operation with other organisations. This conference will discuss what function and priority is to be attached to reconciling in the post-conflict peace-building processes.

Contact: Jörg Calliess, Evangelische Akademie Loccum. Tel: +49 (5766) 81109, Fax: +49 (5766) 81128. Juan Gutierrez, Gernika Gogoratuz. Tel: +34 (4) 625 3558, Fax: +34 (4) 625 6765.

- **DEMOCRACY AND DEEP ROOTED CONFLICT**

October 9-10, Stockholm, Sweden  
Purpose of this conference is to place the issue of democracy-building in post-conflict societies squarely on the international agenda. Organized by IDEA (Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance) this conference will focus on the designation and implementation of democratic institutions which can make peace endure.

Contact: Katie Potter, International IDEA. Tel: +46 (8) 698 3747, Fax: +46 (8) 202 422, E-mail: k.potter@int-idea.se.

- **EMPOWERING LOCAL CAPACITIES FOR PEACE**

October 9-15, Belfast, Northern Ireland  
The 4th international conference of the European Conference on Peacemaking & Conflict Resolution (EPCPR). Primary objective is to focus on the potential of activists/practitioners in local communities to contribute to peaceful,

democratic development.

Contact: Project Planning International. Tel: +44 (1238) 561993, Fax: +44 (1238) 565073. E-mail: 101455.1521@compuserve.com

- **PREVENTING THE PROLIFERATION AND UNLAWFUL USE OF SMALL ARMS AND LIGHTS WEAPONS**

October 12-14, Brussels, Belgium  
Hosted by the Belgium Ministry for Development Aid, this two-day conference is designed to produce a 'Program of Action' to launch an Global NGO Campaign on Preventing the Proliferation and Unlawful Use of Small Arms and Light Weapons.

For more information contact: Franklin De Vrieze, Pax Christi International. Tel: +32 (3) 225 1000, Fax: +32 (3) 225 0799. E-mail: franklin.devrieze@paxchrilv.ngonet.be. Website: www.pci.ngonet.be

- **WARNING & RESPONSE: THE GREAT LAKE REGION AND THE CAUCASUS**

November 16-18, London, UK  
Organised by the Forum on Early Warning Response and CEWS. For more information contact: Royenne Desmukh, FEWER. Tel: +44 (171) 793 8383, Fax: +44 (171) 793 7975. E-mail: secretariat@fewer.org

- **TOWARDS PEACEBUILDING: DEVELOPING NEW POLICY AND PRACTICE IN AREAS OF INSTABILITY AND CONFLICT**

February 15-19, 1999 Soesterberg, the Netherlands  
A residential workshop for staff of international relief and development agencies organised by Kontakt der Kontinenten in co-operation with the European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Responding to Conflict. Contact: Marja Geldhof, Kontakt der Kontinenten. Fax: +31 (346) 354 735. E-mail: kdk-nvco@antenna.nl. <

The Conflict Prevention Newsletter is a quarterly publication, available at no cost to organizations and individuals engaged in the field of conflict prevention and transformation. For a free subscription, please send a fax or email message to Annoesjka Oostindier. Your comments, written contributions and letters to the editor will be appreciated. You are also

invited to send in information about upcoming events and vacancies.

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