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Excerpts from the paper presented at the Seminar on Civil Society-UN Interaction for Conflict Prevention, organised by the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict, Feb 2004, New York.

Civil Societies and Peacebuilding – the New Fifth Estate?

Mari Fitzduff

The Growth of the Power of NGO's¹

NGOs form a rich, if untidy community, with members ranging across the spectrum, from the huge international professional body, to the local grassroots organization.²

They come in an array of shapes and sizes, focusing on distinct issues, with a range of foci, expertise and approaches to achieving their goals. What distinguishes them is the fact that they are mostly independently funded and are therefore often free from state and political control.³ They often differ among themselves in their analyses of problems and the interventions necessary to achieve their goals. Nevertheless in the current world context of conflict NGOs have, in many places, become significant political actors and this heterogeneous group has increasingly, made its presence felt at the local, national and international level. Their growth particularly over the last decade has been phenomenal.

Only a decade ago, in 1993, the Union of International Associations listed over 15,000 NGOs (Weiss and Gordenker 1996 p 17), while in 1995, a UN report on global governance noted that nearly 29,000 NGOs were functioning at the International level (Economist 2000, p25). Such has their growth been that they are now almost beyond counting. In 2000 it was estimated that there are now over 2 million NGOs in the US alone. As state contexts shift, the number of NGOs are rapidly increasing in places where there previously were few. In Russia, there are now about 65,000 in existence, most of the them having developed since the end of the Cold War. (Economist 2000, p25). It is estimated that since democratization 21,000 NGOs have been set up in the Philippines and 27 000 in Chile (Boutros Ghali in Weiss and Gordenker, 1996, p7). In fact in 1997, Smith and Weiss (1997:614) estimated that NGO capacity was so large that the value of assistance delivered by them was greater than that by the UN system, excluding the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

The explosion of NGO representatives attending world conferences on women is an example of this phenomenon. At the first UN World Conference on Women in Mexico

City in 1975, 2,000 government delegates and 6,000 NGO delegates attended – a ratio of three to one. Five years later, 8,000 NGO delegates went to the 1980 women's conference in Copenhagen, Norway. In Nairobi in 1990 there were 11,000. In 1995, Beijing hosted the Fourth World Conference on Women with 40,000 NGOs delegates and only 6,000 governmental delegates. Over the course of four conferences in 20 years, the number of government delegates to the international conferences had tripled while the number of NGOs had increased more than sixfold.

Many people now believe that a critical mass has now been reached with some believing that NGOs are becoming the new 'fifth' estate on issues of global governance. In a statement to the World Economic Forum, Richard Edelman (2003) said 'We believe NGOs are now the Fifth Estate in

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The 11th SUMMER WORKSHOP 2004 on Defence, Technology and Cooperative Security in South Asia

The Regional Centre for Strategic Studies, (RCSS) invites applications from young Chinese Indian and Pakistani professionals to participate in the Summer Workshop on "Defence, Technology and Cooperative Security in South Asia" to be held in Pakistan during December 14-24, 2004.

OBJECTIVE

The main objective of the summer workshop held annually is to provide a forum for young professionals to mutually and collectively examine and understand the major issues of defence, national security, regional stability and confidence building in South Asia. It also encourages a new generation of analysts, commentators and opinion shapers to introduce fresh ideas, perspectives and initiatives to the security debate in the region. Specific goals of the workshop are to:

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global governance - the true credible source on issues related to the environment and social justice...even with global recession and the events of 9/11, NGOs have strengthened their position. Last year in the U.S., business was alone at the top of the pyramid of influence. Now companies must communicate with multiple stakeholders, especially NGOs, with speed, transparency, and an offer of interactivity⁷⁴.

NGO budgets

...NGOs are handling increasingly large budgets. CARE, for instance, for the fiscal year 2001 directed almost 380 million dollars in program expenditure.¹³ The revenue of Catholic Relief Services was 334 million dollars in 2001.¹⁴ In 2002, World Vision raised \$1.032 Billion in cash and goods in support for its mission in 90 countries worldwide.¹⁵ In fact there are now instances where the total NGO budget for a crisis exceeds that of the UN. In 1997 in Afghanistan, for example, NGOs received 136 million of the 200 million that constituted the total UN aid budget for the country. Even where the UN ostensibly has the larger budget - such as in Rwanda in 1994 when 50% of the 1.29 billion US dollars given in aid was given to the UN and only 20% to NGOs in the region - the UN subsequently subcontracted a substantial part of their Rwandan funds to the NGOs.

As a consequence of becoming more professional, engaging in formal and recognized ways with multilaterals and governments and experiencing serious increases in budgets NGOs are quickly losing their perceived 'inferior' status. (West, 2001 p211) They are no longer systematically relegated to being marginal outsiders as the hierarchies restricting interaction between multilaterals, intergovernmental organizations, governments and NGOs have started to soften permitting more formal and informal interaction. The cachet of the major NGOs is increasingly matching that of the intergovernmental organization, with employees moving easily between them.

Existing and Future Roles of NGO's in Conflict Prevention and Management

Despite the criticisms leveled at some NGO's, which many see as a sign of the maturity and increasing power of the field, their involvement in the field of, and assistance, conflict prevention and management is likely to continue and to expand. They are increasingly proving themselves to be indispensable players in many situations where governmental processes have proved to be either too self interested, or possessed of instruments such as economic or military power that are often too blunt for the sensitivities of conflict necessities. In particular they are proving themselves to be important in actual and potential activities in the following areas of conflict prevention and management.

1) NGO's can act as Independent Monitors and Watchdogs.

A vital first step in conflict prevention is the provision of early warning indicators, in the hope that such indicators can provoke strategic responses to emerging conflict.

2) NGO's can increase the constituencies for peace.

As Anderson and Olson (2003) have found in their project assessing critical lessons for peace practitioners, the success of a conflict intervention is often determined by two factors: the number of people or groups at both a personal and societal/political level who can be brought to engage in the peace-making agenda, and the capacity of those individuals or groups with power to implement conflict interventions and agreements at the required regional, national or international level.

3) NGO's can often do what states cannot – or will not do.

The position of states in most conflicts is often an ambiguous one. Conflicting groups often see governments themselves as part of the problem because in many cases they are often seen to have validated and resourced their particular communities and ignored or excluded the needs of others. Here NGO's and others can play a crucial part in undertaking the discussions for compromise that are often necessary in the first instance throughout the community so as to enable politicians to move forward.

4) NGO's can be creative in reframing conflict problems.

NGOs can often help find new and creative ways to reconceptualise conflicts and suggest possibilities for conflict intervention outside of the normal paradigms utilised by governments and official bodies. Such creativity and flexibility, usually sorely needed in conflict situations, is often one of the defining characteristics of NGOs.

5) NGO's can talk to those whom governments cannot talk.

NGO's are much freer than governments in deciding to whom they will talk. Their capacity for facilitating dialogue has few boundaries except that of courage. Many NGO's have used this courage creatively to talk to those who are often outwith the reach of governments.

6) NGO's can be useful advocates for justice and human rights.

Many of the most powerful NGO's today are Advocacy organizations, which organize around particular values, such as human rights (Amnesty and Human Rights Watch) or transparency (Transparency international). Many other NGO organizations also pursue inclusion and justice issues very successfully.e.g. the world wide Anti-Apartheid movement who assisted the struggle for

(Contd in page 4)

SUMMER WORKSHOP 2004 ... *contd*

- equip participants with the information and understanding on conceptual, technical and practical aspects of defense, national security and regional stability in South Asia;
- provide participants with insights into strategic and security thinking in South Asia and China, and how divergences in security perception transform into arms build-up, affect relations between states, evolve into conflict and prevent regional stability;
- stimulate informed discourse on various shades of opinion and thinking in the region, specially on emerging and new ideas, related to the theme of the workshop;
- facilitate objective debate on extra-regional factors and perceptions that affect issues, perceptions and trends in South Asian security; and
- stimulate alternative thinking on defence and security, free from abstraction and polemics, and promote collective consideration of possible options and approaches to stability, confidence building and cooperative security in South Asia.

The course and approach is inter-disciplinary. The following specific issues form the principal focus of the workshop: Security: Conceptions, Context & Recent Trends; Defence & Technology: Conventional & Nuclear; and Confidence Building & Cooperative Security in South Asia.

The workshop will be conducted in an informal atmosphere. An internationally reputed expert will deliver the keynote address on the main theme of the workshop. The lectures will be brief, and will highlight the main issues. Special stress will be given to feedback from participants who will be encouraged to offer comments, raise questions and propose solutions. The programme of the workshop is *designed to facilitate maximum interaction between participants and faculty*, and among the participants themselves. *Several panel sessions* will be held in which more than one faculty member will lead the discussion on a set of agenda/questions to be provided by participants. The programme will also include *simulation exercises* with respect to specific issues and instances, and *participants-led panel sessions*; and a *series of group meetings*. The programme is designed to facilitate maximum interaction between participants and faculty, and among the participants themselves.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Nationals of China, India and Pakistan in the age group of up to 35 years are eligible to apply. In case of deserving candidates, the age limit may be relaxed to a certain extent. Eligible candidates are invited to apply to the RCSS along with the following:

1. Full curriculum vitae including name, date of birth, nationality, sex, full contact address (*including telephone, fax numbers and e-mail address, is a must*), academic qualifications and experience. Please include letters of two academic referees with names and full contact addresses;
 2. List of publications (copy of a recent publication, preferably relevant to the theme of the workshop, if any, to be enclosed). If publication is not available, a brief description of candidate's current professional activities, or a recent report/write-up of relevance to the workshop theme, if any, may be enclosed;
 3. A statement in about 300 words stating future professional objectives and describing how participation in the workshop will be useful.
- * Candidates from all related professional background are eligible. Preference will be afforded to those having some exposure to work in the identified areas of the workshop. Evidence of sustained interest in the field and possibility of continued professional work with related policy-making & policy-influencing institutions, media and NGOs are important criteria for the selection.
 - * Female candidates are especially encouraged to apply.
 - * English is the working language of the workshop.
 - * Letter of application with all documents should reach the RCSS **not later than September 15, 2004**. Early submission is encouraged. No prescribed form is necessary.
 - * **Scholarships are available for all selected South Asian participants to cover economy class return airfare, cost of accommodation, food, and local transportation in Pakistan, in connection with the**
 - * **The Workshop is also open to Non-South Asians or South Asians studying/working abroad for a fee of US\$1000 which includes, registration, full-board accommodation, study-pack and conference documents.**
 - * Applications will be considered by a Selection Committee designated by the International Research Committee of the RCSS. Selected candidates will be notified about 6 weeks before commencement of the programme.

SEND IN YOUR APPLICATIONS TO:

Programme Officer,

Regional Centre for Strategic Studies
2, Elibank Road, Colombo 5, SRI LANKA.
Tel: (94-1) 2599734-7; Fax: 2599993;
e-mail: program@sri.lanka.net
(application via e-mail is welcome)

Civil Societies and ... contd from page 3

democracy and justice in South Africa, and, more latterly, the many NGO's who sought to assist the East Timorese in their struggle for independence. Such groups can often play a vital role in drawing the attention of the world to human rights abuses in particular situations of conflict.

7) NGO's can help the inclusion of women conflict prevention and peace building.

Unfortunately, although often significant victims of war and conflict, women are often left out of the processes of conflict prevention and peacebuilding. However, a wide variety of NGO's have been at the forefront in ensuring their involvement. In 1999, an international NGO campaign, The Women Building Peace campaign, led by International Alert in London, was set up as a reaction to the failure of the UN and other IGO's to implement the majority of the security policies relating to women at the local, national, regional and international levels. The campaign sought the inclusion of women in five critical areas of peacebuilding, and its ultimate goal was a UN Security Council resolution on women and security and involved 350 organizations around the world. After an intensive 18-month campaign, and significant effort, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 1325 which incorporated all the themes highlighted by women's groups in the campaign. This will help ensure that women will be included in many more aspects of conflict prevention and peace building in the future.

8) NGO's can assist dialogue between politicians.

It is often extremely difficult for those who are politicians to involve themselves in personal dialogue with each other as they are very closely watched by their communities. Political dialogue between politicians usually therefore happens only at a public level, and is usually addressed to one's own constituency, who, many politicians fear, are watching, listening, and waiting lest their politicians betray their beliefs. Such difficulties often make political discussions of a formal nature extremely difficult. Many NGO's have however assisted politicians from conflicted societies to meet together and help the difficult process of trust building.

9) NGO's can bring business leverage to bear upon a conflict.

In many ways the role of private enterprise in today's world far exceeds that of government and the power of such enterprise, along with the power of private financiers, functioning as it often does on a transnational basis, continues to rise and overarch the power of nation states themselves. Many NGO's are therefore increasingly using the power of businesses and trade unions, and engaging them in addressing conflict issues. In particular they have helped to ensure the engagement of the business sectors in South Africa, Northern Ireland and Sri Lanka to put

pressure on the political actors to move towards peace as exemplified in the report by International Alert on the Business of Peace.

10) NGO's can help utilize the power of the media.

The outreach capacity for the Media is enormous. It can set a public tone for divided societies that are one of respect and not division. It can exemplify multilingualism, and it can help increase understanding of the differing traditions and perspectives of varying communities. On the other hand it can and often is used to foster division, and there are many situations where the media have often substantially contributed to the problem of mistrust and hate. However, many NGO's have been helping to harness the media to counteract ethnic divisions.⁵

11) Faith NGO's can bring religious values to bear upon a conflict.

Faith groups, i.e. NGO's who have a particularly spiritual dimension to their work, have a great deal of influence and power, which is unfortunately all too often under-utilized in its potential for preventing, managing and diminishing conflicts. More than two thirds of the world population belongs to a religion. In 1992, 29.2% of the religious constituency was Christian; 17.9% Muslim; 13% Hindu; 5.7% Buddhist/Shintoist; 0.7% Confucianism/Taoist. These figures, and their potential, are enormous. All of these religions have huge infrastructures of power, together with communication networks that reach all corners of the world. Religious organizations therefore have the capacity to motivate and to mobilize people for a more peaceful world.

12) NGO's can help by addressing issues of safety and security.

NGO's like Saferworld, <http://www.saferworld.co.uk/> and the BICC, the Bonn International Centre for Conversion <http://www.bicc.de/> are think tanks dedicated to ensuring more effective approaches to armed conflict. They seek such goals particularly through effecting a useful monitoring, advocacy, and leverage function on the world of arms control, and arms development. Other address particular issues of physical security, sometimes often with spectacular success e.g. in 1997, an NGO dedicated to the banning of landmines achieved an international treaty banning the use, production, stockpiling, and transfer of antipersonnel landmines which has been ratified or acceded to by 141. <http://www.icbl.org>

13) Next generation work.

The processes of education can be extremely divisive particularly where students are taught separately, and taught versions of history that are mutually antagonistic. In many situations of conflict, NGO's have been to the forefront in developing new processes of educations that provide possibilities for contact and mutual understanding between the next generations. In some cases, as in the role of the Integrated school movement in Northern Ireland, and Neve Shalom in Israel, NGO's have assisted in

breaking down some of the ghettoisation of schools that is current within most conflicted societies. NGO's have also made efforts, where differing perspectives have exacerbated violent hostilities, to develop mutual history and religious programmes which are taught in all schools whether segregated or integrated. Such programmes can be critical in helping to limit the cycles of violence in conflicted societies and open up new opportunities for conflict prevention and peace-building on-coming generations.

Conclusion:

NGO's are here to stay, and look likely to significantly increase in growth, outreach, and funding over the coming decades. Increasingly they are becoming more professional and more policy oriented in their approach (Fitzduff and Church 2004). They have begun to develop significant partnerships at both the policy and the funding levels with the UN and other IGO's over the last decade. They have also developed significant expertise in many of the tools necessary to prevent and manage conflict. In order for their work to continue more effectively into the future, they will need to ensure that they have an increasing influence on governmental, national and international players, so as to ensure that the lessons that the NGO's are learning are productively mainstreamed into governments and societies at all levels. Such a partnership of learning among all of the players involved in conflict prevention and management work will help to more effectively address what will be the continuing need for security and safety in the world in the decades ahead.

(-Mari Fitzduff is Professor and Director of the Coexistence and Conflict Master's program at Brandeis

University. Previously she was Director of UNU/INCORE a United Nations University international research centre based in Northern Ireland).

¹ The contextual information to NGO's in this paper is based on the first chapter of the book 'NGOs at the Table' Eds. Fitzduff, Mari and Church, Cheyanne, due for publication by Rowan and Littlefield in Spring of 2004.

² I have defined NGO's in their literal sense i.e. organisations that are not within the formal institutions of government.

³ Although in some countries this is changing as governments recognise their value for money and are requesting that they take on traditionally governmental responsibilities within Parliament and dubbed newspapers the Fourth Estate. In recent times, the business community has been dubbed as the 'fifth' estate. However, a recent survey of European and American opinion leaders conducted by Edelman PR Worldwide found that trust in NGOs to 'do the right thing' is holding strong in Europe and risen in the US. They now challenge business as the credible source on issues such as social justice and the environment -<http://solidar.org>.

⁴ British Parliamentarian Edmund Burke coined the phrase "Fourth Estate," concluding that there were three Estates within Parliament and dubbed newspapers the Fourth Estate. In recent times, the business community has been dubbed as the 'fifth' estate. However, a recent survey of European and American opinion leaders conducted by Edelman PR Worldwide found that trust in NGOs to 'do the right thing' is holding strong in Europe and risen in the US. They now challenge business as the credible source on issues such as social justice and the environment. -<http://solidar.org/Document.asp?DocID=3598&tod=487>.

⁵ Conflict Prevention Newsletter. Media and Conflict Vol 1 No 2 Published by European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation.

On Civil Society Rounds... @Home

A South Asian regional meeting on *The Role of Civil Society in the Prevention of Armed Conflict in South Asia*, organised by RCSS in collaboration with Freidrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) and supported by UNDP, will be held for two and a half days in Kathmandu, Nepal, during September 11-13, 2004.

The participants for this meeting will present brief working papers based on their active involvement and existing experience in this field, especially highlighting the lessons learnt and underlining the best practice to be followed in harnessing the civil society potential in the prevention of armed conflict. An important task of this meeting will be to decide what should go into the Action Agenda for South Asia.

In the course of the earlier brain storming sessions, the participants attending the meeting prioritized the main conflict areas impacting on their countries in the following manner:

- Sri Lanka: ethnic conflict, problems arising from socio-economic deprivation, drift of state from secular status, and issues connected with democratization process:
- Pakistan: sectarian friction, ethnic division, political polarization, economic stratification of society and problems of water sharing.
- India: communal, religious, caste, and regional issues.
- Bangladesh: inter-ethnic, intra state (particularly mis governance), resource sharing and minority issues.
- Nepal: proliferation of small arms, cross-border issues, poverty, ethnicity and problem of representative democracy.

In the run up to the Nepal meeting, was a series of global programmes of research, consultation and discussions in collaboration with civil society organizations. RCSS, working closely with ECCP participated in a preparatory meeting held in Chiang Mai (April 2003), two international conferences in Soesterberg (June 2003) and Dublin (April 2004), hosted a Brainstorming session comprising regional experts in Sri Lanka (November 2003), and conducted a national conference at Mumbai, India (January 2004).

From the bookshelf

Bradman Weerakoon, *Rendering Unto Caesar, A Fascinating Story Of One Man's Tenure Under Nine Prime Ministers And Presidents Of Sri Lanka*, (Vijitha Yapa Publications, Sri Lanka, 2004)

This is Bradman Weerakoon's unique first person account of fifty years of public service as Official Secretary and Senior Advisor to Sri Lankan Prime Ministers and Presidents. His insightful, often entertaining memoir captures nine of Sri Lanka's most historic figures in revealing public and private moments. The author was present and actively participated in key events that shaped the nation. His fluent prose and wry wit bring those events alive in respectful but penetrating anecdotes. Of powerful current relevance, *Rendering Unto Caesar* shares poignant lessons from the past to inform the challenges of present and future.

(Mr Weerakoon is an International Research Committee member of RCSS).

Lorna Dewaraja ed, *A Diplomat for All Seasons: Essays in Honour of Dr Vernon L B Mendis*

(Godage International Publishers (Pvt) Ltd, Colombo, 2004)

This collection of essays has been published in the acknowledgement of the services rendered by Deshamanya Dr Vernon L B Mendis as a diplomat, historian, researcher, writer, teacher, policy maker and consultant in the realm of foreign affairs and governance.

In the field of diplomacy and diplomatic training Dr Mendis has achieved Universal recognition. The idea of producing a felicitation volume in Dr Mendis' honour, was conceived by the staff of the Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Institute, when the latter despite many challenges was proceeding in its ninth year and gaining in popularity among many segment of society.

This volume has a collection of essays dedicated to Dr Mendis as a token of admiration of his exemplary service as one of Sri Lanka's pioneering career diplomat and for his scholarly contribution, and ever-growing commitment to training young professionals in the chosen careers.

(Dr Mendis is a founder-member of the International Research Committee and is a member of the Board of Directors of the RCSS).

Strategic Survey 2003/4 An Evaluation and Forecast of World Affairs

(Oxford University Press, IISS, London, 2004)

The issue records strategic and security related events/developments and offers critical appraisals of contemporary world affairs. Following is an extract from the current issue:

The fact that strategic relationships are now heavily determined by controversial WMD, terrorism and Middle East problems may translate into a relatively high capacity for strategic partners to reach consensus on less divisive difficulties that arise. In dealing with them, the challenge is likely to be not so much substantive as bureaucratic and logistical. For all its resource and power, the US is having a hard time bearing the security burdens that it has assumed and had thrust upon it. What seems certain is that if still more strategic crises occur, international coordination and cooperation will be at a high premium.

The Military Balance 2003,2004

(Oxford University Press, IISS, London, 2003)

This is an authoritative assessment of the military capabilities and defence economics of nearly 170 countries. It is updated each year to provide an accurate assessment of the military forces and defence expenditures of these countries. Following is an extract from its commentary on India-Pakistan Defence Cooperation: Both India and Pakistan have increased military-to-military cooperation with other countries. India has maintained its ties with Russia through a new January 2003 defence deal which included joint development of a four-and-a-half-generation fighter jet aircraft. India also strengthened defence links with Poland, France and Israel through agreements, joint exercises, and military acquisitions and in November 2002 signed an agreement with Afghanistan to help train Afghan military personnel. India and the US carried out their largest joint exercise to date in October 2002. However, in July 2003, India rejected a US request to provide some 17,000 troops for post-war duties in Iraq, citing the absence of UN mandate. India has also held talks with China in June 2003 in which India acknowledged 'that the Tibet Autonomous region is part of the territory of the People's Republic of China', and both signed a border trade protocol to facilitate trade through the Sikkim-Tibet border. ... US President George W Bush has praised Pakistan's support for the 'war on terror' and promised to work with Congress to provide \$3bn of development and security assistance to Pakistan. In addition, in March 2003 the US lifted sanctions on Pakistan, sanctions which had prevented Pakistan from receiving US Economic aid. However, Washington will not release 28-F-16 fighters released by Pakistan a decade ago. ... Despite anti war protests precipitated by anti-American sentiment, and attacks on US interest in Pakistan

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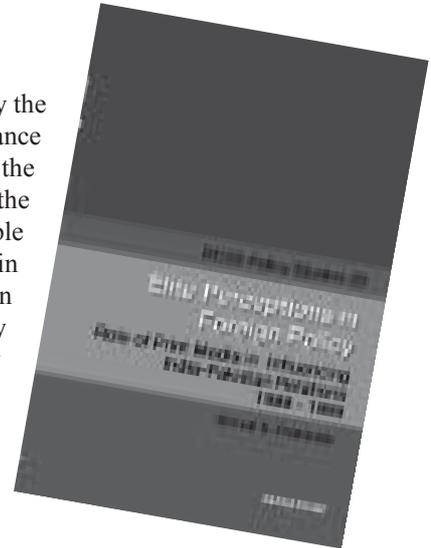
Our New Publications

Elite Perceptions in Foreign Policy

Smruti S Pattanaik

(RCSS Policy Studies 26, Manohar Publishers, New Delhi, India, 2004)

The task of educating people on foreign policy issues is largely performed by the elite. Although people in India and Pakistan have a keen interest in the furtherance of bilateral relations, various intricacies of the relations are not known to the masses. It is the elite who inform the masses regarding various issues and the existing challenges to their resolution. This prepares people to be more amenable to changing circumstances and appreciate solutions that strengthen peace in the region. In this context the English language newspapers' role is crucial in making the views and opinions expressed accessible to a wider audience thereby generating well informed opinions that act as crucial inputs in foreign policy making. The present study focuses on the entire gamut of Indo-Pak relations post 1989 based on the content analysis of five English language news papers each from India and Pakistani reflects the trends in bilateral relationship and how elite in both the countries have prioritized various bilateral issues and discussed possible solution on each issue.

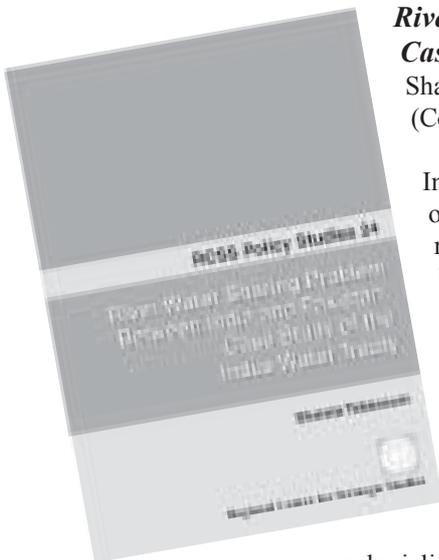


It also reveals the parameter of mistrust and apprehensions within which opinions are conceived and articulated . What generates hope and optimism is the topsy-turvy path of Indo-Pak relations is the convergence of realization on both sides that war is not a solution and negotiation, however, tedious is the only path to peace and development. This study encapsulates that with every setback and pessimism there is a reinvigorating new dynamism in building peace and renewed attempts are tirelessly made to reach out to each other.

River Water Sharing Problem Between India and Pakistan: Case Study of the Indus Waters Treaty

Shaista Tabassum

(Colombo, RCSS Policy Studies 24, 2004)



In South Asia, as in some other regions of the world, the distribution and sharing of water has created serious problems. Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Nepal share rivers with India. The sharing and allocation of water rights could not be settled by the states of the region for a long time after their independence. The issues, therefore, became a cause of regional tension.

The Indus Basin River system created by the British colonialists consisted of six rivers: the Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi. The system was divided as a result of partition of the subcontinent, where the river water was coming to Pakistan, but the headworks remained in India.

The present study traces the Indus basin system created by the British colonialists in the mid-nineteenth century. Partition had created a serious problem of water sharing between the two. It was the partition of Punjab which had also divided two important water projects, namely the Bari *doab* canal, and the Sutlej Valley Projects (SVP). The study will trace the origin of the problem, followed by step-by-step development of the issue. It also sees how the issue was settled later between India and Pakistan with World Bank mediation. The study briefly looks into the irrigation system constructed after the treaty, and also discusses the water sharing issues which erupted after the signature of the treaty.

From Our Web Library

Get linked to the world of research documents on a gamut of security-related issues through the Centre's website <<http://www.rcss.org>>. We offer easy access to web research material, i.e documents, articles and books, under one web column. Featured below is a compilation of few topics currently accessible in our web research column.

...on Civil Society

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UN System and Civil Society - An Inventory and Analysis of Practices. www.un.org/reform/pdfs/hlp9.htm:1-26

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Web books on Civil Society

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Samarasinghe, S.W.R. de A.

Political Economy of Internal Conflict in Sri Lanka/ by S.W.R. de A. Samarasinghe.—www.clingendael.nl/cru/pdf/working_paper_16.pdf, 2003

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The Structure of International Conflict Management: An Analysis of the Effects of Intractability and Mediation. www.gmu.edu/academic/ijps/vol4_1/bercovitch.htm:1-16

6th WINTER WORKSHOP ON SOURCES OF CONFLICT IN SOUTH ASIA:

Terrorism, Human Security Issues, Governance, Gender Security and Migration

The Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS) will hold a residential workshop on non-traditional sources of conflict in South Asia this year. The sixth workshop in the series titled, *Sources of Conflict in South Asia*, will be held in Kathmandu, Nepal from **October 1-10, 2004**. The theme of the workshop will focus mainly on the findings of the Phase II of the Non-Traditional Security projects for South Asia that has been funded by the Ford Foundation. The themes include:

- a) *Terrorism*
- b) *Human Security Issues*
- c) *Governance*
- d) *Gender and Security*
- e) *Migration*

Participants will have an opportunity to understand the concept of non-traditional security issues and how they have evolved in South Asia. They will also have the opportunity to closely interact and discuss with leading South Asian experts on various facets of these issues

and examine what they mean for the future security of the region.

The programme is intended for young professionals of South Asia. Participants will come from a varied professional background including public and private sector institutions, research, academia, media and NGOs. The courses are interdisciplinary, and programmes will range from *lecture sessions to panel discussions and group activities*.

OBJECTIVE

The objectives of the Workshop are to:

- Understand the concept of non-traditional security issues and how they continue to shape the future of South Asia;
- Analyze the discourse and practice on human security within the framework of non-traditional security issues in the region, and examine the possibility of constructing a Human Security Index for South Asia;

(Contd in page 10)

Billon, Philippe Le(2001)

Fuelling War or Buying Peace: the Role of Corruption in Conflicts. www.wider.unu.edu/publications/dps/dp2001-65pdf:1-19

Blomberg, S. Brock; Hess, Gregory D.

The Temporal Links between Conflict and Economic Activity.

http://econ.worldbank.org/files/3104_Bloomberg_Hess.pdf:1-32

Burgess, Guy; Burgess, Heidi

Dealing with the Intractable Conflicts: Potential Contributions from the Conflict Resolution and Peacemaking Fields. www.intractableconflict.org/docs/terrorism-essay-reframed2.jsp:1-9

Clements, Kevin P.(2000)

Civil Society and Conflict Prevention. www.zef.de/download/ethnic_conflict/clements.pdf:1-21

Colletta, Nat J.; Tesfamichael, Gebreselassie Y.(2003)

Bank Engagement after Conflict: A Client Perspective. <http://Inweb18.worldbank.org/:1-23>

Collier, Paul(2000)

Economic causes of civil conflict and their implications for policy. www.globalpolicy.org/security/issues/diamond/wb.htm:1-20

(To be continued in the next quarterly)

From the bookshelf ... contd from page 6

in October and December 2002, Islamabad continued to support the US-led 'war on terror.' Notable actions have included tracking down suspected al-Qaeda members and in June 2003 freezing nearly \$10m of suspected terrorists groups' assets while in the same month dispatching 2, 000 soldiers into the semi autonomous North West Frontier Province in an attempt to pursue Taliban and al Qaeda members trying to take refuge in Pakistan.

Moonis Ahmar ed., *The World After September 11: Challenges And Opportunities*, (University of Karachi 2003).

This volume is a "modest attempt to bring to knowledge of readers some of the significant aspects of the world after September 11. It has also tried to examine in detail the challenges, which the international community is facing after 9/11 and the opportunities, which exists to deal with the issues, which tend to polarize the world at different levels. It gives a regional perspective of the situation, which emanated as a result of the event of the 9/11 and the challenges/opportunities, which exist in this regard." Divided into three parts: conceptual, global, regional and domestic, the series of articles published in this presents a comprehensive picture of the fall out of the 9/11 and can contribute richly to the standard of discourse with each contribution addressing a key aspect of it.

6th Winter Workshop ... *Contd from page 9*

- Develop a better understanding of the concept of terrorism in South Asia and explore how such threats may be dealt with in a comprehensive manner;
- Examine the gender concerns on security discourse in the region and explore its problematic in armed conflicts, displacement of refugees, water security and state violence, etc.;
- Address the question of how South Asians view their own security and the role that democratic institutions and governance play in ensuring human security;
- Understand migratory patterns both within and from South Asia and examine a common legal framework for order and safe migration policy to ensure human security;
- Equip participants with knowledge and skills necessary to understand the concepts and approaches to conflict, conflict resolution and conflict management with a specific focus on non-military sources in the context of South Asia; and
- Facilitate better understanding of problems and constraints, and promote collective consideration of alternative visions, options and approaches to resolve such conflicts.

In the long run, the workshop is expected to create a network for sustained interaction and communication between a growing body of a new generation of professionals in South Asia. By facilitating the evolution of alternative approaches with a regional perspective, it will advance the cause of cooperation, conflict resolution and conflict management in the region.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- * Nationals of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka in the age group up to 40 years are eligible to apply providing the following:
1. Full curriculum vitae including name, date of birth, nationality, sex, full contact address (*including telephone, fax numbers and e-mail address, is a must*), academic qualifications and experience. Please include letters of two academic referees with names and full contact addresses;
 2. List of publications (copy of a recent publication, preferably relevant to the theme of the workshop, if

- any, to be enclosed). If publication is not available, a brief description of candidate's current professional activities, or a recent report/write-up of relevance to the workshop theme, if any, may be enclosed;
3. A statement in about 300 words stating future professional objectives and describing how participation in the workshop will be useful.

- * Candidates from all related professional background are eligible. Preference will be afforded to those having some exposure to work in the identified areas of the workshop. Evidence of sustained interest in the field and possibility of continued professional work with related policy-making & policy-influencing institutions, media and NGOs are important criteria for the selection.
- * Female candidates are especially encouraged to apply.
- * English is the working language of the workshop.
- * The total number of participants is approximately 30 from all countries of South Asia.
- * Letter of application with all documents should reach the RCSS **not later than August 15, 2004**. Early submission is encouraged. No prescribed form is necessary.
- * **Scholarships are available for all selected South Asian participants to cover economy class return airfare, cost of accommodation, food, and local transportation in Nepal, in connection with the programme.**
- * **The Workshop is also open to Non-South Asians or South Asians studying/working abroad for a fee of US\$1000 which includes, registration, full-board accommodation, study-pack and conference documents.**
- * Applications will be considered by a Selection Committee designated by the International Research Committee of the RCSS. Selected candidates will be notified about 6 weeks before commencement of the programme.

SEND IN YOUR APPLICATIONS TO:

Programme Officer

Regional Centre for Strategic Studies
2, Elibank Road, Colombo 5, SRI LANKA.

Tel: (94-1) 2599734-7; Fax: 2599993; e-mail:
program@sri.lanka.net (applications via e-mail is welcome)

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Associate Director

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