

ISPAC

*International Scientific and Professional
Advisory Council
of the United Nations
Crime Prevention and Criminal
Justice Programme*



International Conference

on

VIOLENT CRIME AND CONFLICTS
Towards Early Warning and Prevention
Mechanisms

Courmayeur Mont Blanc, Italy
4-6 October 1997

in cooperation with

*United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division
Forum on Early Warning and Early Response (FEWER)*

The auspices of the Ministry of Justice of Italy will be requested

Draft Programme

2/13

Criminologists and sociologists both recognize the importance of social cohesion for the prevention of harmful anti-social behaviour. They acknowledge the importance of community values for the maintenance of social order and agree that social disintegration and fragmentation stand at the cradle of a great deal of politically-motivated as well as crime-related violence. The probable (existence of) common determinants of both types of anti-social behaviour suggest that a timely monitoring of social, political and economic signals pointing towards escalation of latent tensions into manifest violence opens the possibility for prophylactic intervention. In the field of conflict studies, root causes and early warning research has finally elicited the attention it properly deserves. In the field of criminology there have been considerable advances in the determination of factors foreshadowing the occurrence of violent criminal behaviour and the analysis of crime trends.

New fields of research and action often open up at the interface between key concepts, such as 'Crime' and 'Conflict'. Given the fact that violence is a common crime and conflict related theme, ISPAC plans to bring together experts on violent crime, social conflict and civil strife so that they can compare, exchange and further develop indicators of violent behaviour, explore under what circumstances violence assumes a more criminal or a more political expression, and determine what can be done to prevent the escalation of violence or, at least, mitigate its impact.

The early detection of violence-prone actors, processes, and structures gains its full significance only when combined with the development of strategic responses based on a broad scale of prevention mechanisms that can be applied to critical situations. We think, in this context, not exclusively in terms of measures to be taken by the State. The State has often reacted repressively rather than prophylactically, thereby initiating a spiral of violence that has made actual solutions less likely. The demand for tough measures from sectors of society confronted with political and criminal violence, while understandable, is not very helpful when it comes to defusing critical situations and initiating processes of healing, reconciliation and restoration.

At this ISPAC conference equal attention will be given to discussing early responses in the form of preventive action for both violent crime and domestic political conflict. At the same time, there will also be a focus on the positive identification of the correlates of social harmony and cohesion and means of maximizing them. The existence of strong and weak societies is closely linked to the legitimacy of the state and the degree of inequality within and between societies. When market forces and the state block the development of certain groups in society, social conflict is the likely result with both criminal and political violence escalating, sometimes to the point of a humanitarian crisis.

The avoidance of such trends can be sought in the reduction of differences, in the integration rather than the polarization of social diversity so that the door is opened to mutual enrichment and progress rather than towards a violent zero-sum game of exclusion and expulsion from the political and socio-economic community.

In hosting this international conference, ISPAC is continuing its already established tradition of making substantive contributions to the work of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme. ISPAC's efforts in that direction aim at enriching the body of knowledge and expertise which are required by the Programme and by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in the performance of their respective functions. ISPAC intends the Conference to meet that objective but also, and equally importantly, to provide the stimulus and basis for concrete action through technical cooperation activities for the benefit of developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

Conference Secretariat:

ISPAC

c/o Centro Nazionale di Prevenzione e Difesa Sociale - CNPDS

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DRAFT PROGRAMME

(Chairmen and Speakers have confirmed, unless stated otherwise)

Saturday, 4 October 1997

09.30 - 10.00

Opening Session

Chair:

G.O.W. Mueller, Chairman a.i. of the ISPAC Executive Board

Addresses by local, national and international Authorities

1. CAUSES, MEASURES & MIRRORS

10.00 - 13.00

Chair:

M. Cherif Bassiouni, ISPAC Executive Board Member, De Paul University, Chicago, USA

Root Causes of Crime and Conflict

Alex P. Schmid, ISPAC Executive Board Member, PLOM Foundation, The Netherlands

Magnitudes and Trends in Violent Crime: National, Regional and Global Developments

Jeremy Travis, Director, National Institute of Justice, Washington D.C., USA

Questions/ Debate

Antecedents of Collective Political Violence: Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches

Hugh Miall, Director, Richardson Institute, Lancaster, United Kingdom

Questions/ Debate

15.30 - 19.00

Chair:

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Magnitudes and Trends in Violent Intra-State Conflicts

K. Schlichte, Arbeitsgruppe Kriegsursachenforschung, Hamburg, Germany

6/1

Common Indicators of Political Conflict and Violent Crime
Jeffrey Ian Ross, Social Science Analyst, U.S. Department
of Justice, National Institute of Justice, Washington D.C.,
USA

Questions/ Debate

*Media Violence and Violent Youth Crimes: a Controversial
Relationship*

George Gerbner, Retr. Dean of the Annenberg School of
Journalism, USA

Questions/ Debate

*Media and Genocide: Are Public Media Useful for Early
Warning or Creating Political Will for Early Response?*

Howard Adelman, York University, Canada

**Panel Discussion of Speakers with Questions from the
Audience**

21.00 Workshop (optional), Chaired by **Ineke Haen Marshall**, University of Nebraska,
Omaha, USA. " *The Tools of Crime Prevention* ": demonstration by **Irvin Waller**, Director
General of the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime, Montreal (Quebec), Canada

Sunday, 5 October 1997

2. PREVENTION

09.30 - 13.00

Chair:

J.J.M. van Dijk, Ministry of Justice, The Netherlands

*Economic Participation and Social Integration as
Mechanisms of Violence Prevention*

Michel Marcus, European Forum for Urban Safety, Paris,
France

Questions/ Debate

*Foreigners in our Midst: Permeating Positive Practices
with Conflicts and Contradictions in Multicultural/
Multiracial Societies*

Shantu Watt, University of Bradford, United Kingdom

Questions/ Debate

Strengthening Civil Society and Social Cohesion in Former Communist States. Lessons from Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Vera Mehta, Special Assistant to the Special Representative of the Secretary General, UNPREDEP, Skopje, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Questions/ Debate

Post-Armistice Violence: The Upsurge of Crime after Armed Conflicts. African Examples

Adedokun A. Adeyemi, ISPAC Executive Board Member, Department of Public Law, University of Lagos, Nigeria

Panel Discussion of Speakers with Questions from the Audience

15.30 - 19.00

Chair:

Sanford Jaffe, Director, Center for Negotiation and Conflict Resolution at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J., USA

Italy and the Albanian Crisis: The Role of Mediation and Conflict Resolution

Alessandro Silj, Secretary-General, Italian Social Sciences Council, Rome, Italy

Questions/ Debate

Teaching Human Rights, Laws of War, and Conflict Resolution in Conflict Zones

Anna R. Korula, Civil Affairs, UNTAES, Osijek, Croatia

Questions/ Debate

Strengthening National and International Justice Systems: Criminal Justice Reform and International Tribunals

Mark Gibney, Department of Political Science, Purdue University, West Lafayette, USA (subject to confirmation)

Questions/ Debate

The Role of the UN and Regional Security Organizations in Early Warning, Preventive Diplomacy and Humanitarian Interventions

Sharon Rusu, UN/DHA (United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs), Geneva

6
8/13

Panel Discussion of Speakers with Questions from the Audience

21.00 Workshop (optional), Chaired by **Alex P. Schmid**, ISPAC Executive Board Member, PLOOM Foundation, The Netherlands. " *The Tools of Conflict Prevention* " demonstration by **Michael Lund**, Creative Associates, Inc., Washington, D.C., USA

Monday, 6 October 1997

3. SHARING RESPONSIBILITY

09.30 - 12.30

Chair:

Livia Pomodoro, Secretary and Standing-Coordinator of the functional and Resource Committees of ISPAC, Italy

The Responsibility of Business Corporations in Crime and Conflict Prevention

Lo van Wachem, Acting Director, Shell, The Netherlands (subject to confirmation)

Questions/ Debate

The Role of NGO's in Crime and Conflict Prevention

David Nyham, Coordinator International Alert and the Forum on Early Warning and Early Response (FEWER), London, United Kingdom

Questions/ Debate

Panel Discussion of Speakers with Questions from the Audience: Towards Complementarity and Integration in the Prevention of Violent Crime and Violent Political Conflict

12.30 - 13.00

Closing Session

Conclusion and recommendations by **G.O.W. Mueller**, Chairman a.i. of the Executive Board and Standing-Rapporteur, ISPAC

Coffee breaks will be at 11.00 and 17.00

Official languages: English, French and Italian with simultaneous interpretation.

Milan, July 1997

7 9/13