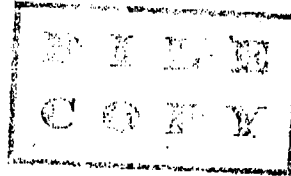


J.S. Delegation to the CSCE  
Working Group 1, November 11, 1994  
Working Group 3, November 10, 1994



S.3.5

**EXPLORING THE POTENTIAL FOR  
COLLABORATION BY THE CSCE AND NGOs  
ON PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY**

**Summary Statement from a seminar  
convened by the Balkans Peace Project  
with the support of the Secretary General's office  
of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe**

**StadtSchlaining, Austria, 23-24 September 1994**

A program of the

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### **About the Balkans Peace Project**

The Balkans Peace Project (BPP) was initiated in 1991 to promote the use of conflict resolution processes that can contribute to a sustainable peace in the Balkans region. The project uses approaches grounded in negotiation theory and social psychological research. It seeks to facilitate dialogue and collaborative problem-solving, and to train people in facilitation, mediation and negotiation skills. The goals are to help people take steps toward the resolution of intractable intercommunal conflicts and to build indigenous skills in conflict management, peacemaking and peacebuilding. BPP personnel work with participants to address the causes of conflict, rather than seeking settlement formulas. The BPP also works with national and international governmental and nongovernmental organizations to institutionalize nonviolent approaches to conflict management, peacemaking and peacebuilding.

The BPP is a jointly sponsored project of the Institute for Resource and Security Studies (Cambridge, Massachusetts) and the Center for Psychology and Social Change (an affiliate of Harvard University Medical School).

For more information about the CSCE/NGO seminar or other work of the Balkans Peace Project please contact:

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### **Acknowledgements**

The CSCE/NGO seminar and the publication of this summary statement were made possible through the generous support and funding of the Winston Foundation for World Peace, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the CarEth Fund and the United States Information Service. We are also grateful to the office of the Secretary General of the CSCE for its support and assistance throughout the project.



**EXPLORING THE POTENTIAL FOR COLLABORATION  
BY THE CSCE AND NGOs ON PREVENTIVE  
DIPLOMACY**

Summary Statement of a Seminar in StadtSchlaining,  
Austria, September 1994

1. Introduction

The Balkans Peace Project (BPP), with the support of the Secretary General's office of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), convened a seminar in September 1994, entitled: "Exploring the Potential for Collaboration between the CSCE and NGOs on Preventive Diplomacy."

The seminar took place in Austria, and brought together approximately 20 CSCE country heads of delegations and CSCE officials with an equal number of representatives of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) from the USA, Canada, the CIS, and Europe who specialize in the area of preventive diplomacy and conflict resolution. A participant list is attached.

The seminar followed a January 1994 CSCE conference in Warsaw, Poland, that addressed the CSCE role in "Early Warning and Preventive Diplomacy." Many official delegates and NGO participants at the January conference agreed that programs in early warning and preventive diplomacy could enhance security in Europe, and that CSCE/NGO cooperation in these efforts should be explored.

This statement summarizes the discussion at the seminar and offers recommendations.

2. Nature of the Seminar

It was felt by the participants that this meeting was useful. It provided the first opportunity for the CSCE and NGOs active in the conflict prevention field to have informal, frank and direct contact, to develop dialogue, and to build links between the two groups.

The seminar was a new departure for the CSCE because contact with specialized NGOs has in the past been rather chaotic. Now, the CSCE institutions are becoming well established (e.g., the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), CSCE



### CSCE/NGO Seminar Summary

High Commissioner on National Minorities, the Secretary General, the Secretariat, the Chairman in Office, and the Committee of Senior Officials). Thus it is possible to have a continuity of contact that can be constructively built upon.

One unique feature of the meeting was the degree to which it was broadly and significantly representative. Key CSCE officials and Ambassadors attended, including 15 Heads of Delegation. Such participation was a major effort during a time that was unusually busy for CSCE diplomats. This attendance demonstrated how serious the CSCE delegations are about the issue of preventive diplomacy and the role of NGOs. Attendance from the conflict management NGO community was similarly representative, featuring NGOs from the USA, Canada, the CIS, and across Europe.

### 3. Discussion of CSCE and NGO Roles

The meeting provided an important opportunity for the two groups to compare their perspectives on preventive diplomacy, conflict management and conflict resolution. Three elements of convergence were delineated:

- (i) Both the CSCE and NGOs share the objectives of preventing conflict, building civil society and protecting human rights, but within these objectives there is a difference in motivation, because frequently these NGOs operate from a moral imperative while the CSCE operates primarily from a political imperative.
- (ii) There is a significant overlap between the CSCE and this particular NGO community in the approaches they use, namely persuasion, dialogue and conciliation.
- (iii) Between the CSCE and this NGO group there is a useful complementarity of roles, as the CSCE works on the governmental and political level while the NGOs work at the grass roots and with the 'sub-diplomatic' community.

Discussion allowed the participants to explore areas where NGOs are in a position to offer something to the CSCE, and where the CSCE is in a position to welcome these contributions. The NGOs offered:





## CSCE/NGO Seminar Summary

- (i) education, training, research, and conceptual analysis of conflict prevention and conflict management;
- (ii) provision of information;
- (iii) communal dialogue on the local level; and
- (iv) unofficial, peaceful sub-diplomatic interventions in conflict situations.

The CSCE expressed its appreciation of the expertise offered by the NGO community, acknowledged that the CSCE wants to be open to NGOs and that the Secretariat is actively seeking new ways to be more open. In particular, the CSCE is open to information and alternative analyses on conflict situations, and seeks to utilize NGO training capabilities in the areas of conflict prevention and conflict management.

#### 4. Potential Areas of CSCE-NGO Cooperation.

The seminar allowed the parties to identify potential areas of cooperative action, including areas that need further exploration. Possible limitations to cooperation were also discussed. Key points were:

- (i) NGOs are in a position to supply information on early warning and conflict prevention. However, the CSCE does not yet have mechanisms in place to adequately accept or deal with this flow of information.
- (ii) While it was noted that NGOs could provide a unique and useful type of training for CSCE missions in conflict and preconflict areas, the nature of the CSCE missions, the short notice with which missions are assembled, and the frequent changes of field personnel make the practical implementation of such training difficult. While the Conflict Prevention Center of the CSCE indicated strong interest in training, it noted that practical issues (e.g., time and money for such training) demand further study, so that for the immediate future such training will need to be arranged on an ad hoc basis.



## CSCE/NGO Seminar Summary

- (iii) NGOs can be helpful in establishing channels for dialogue on the community level that are of interest to the CSCE. Practical application of cooperation in this area requires further exploration by both partners.
- (iv) NGOs are engaged in peaceful sub-diplomatic level third party operations in conflict situations, an area where CSCE/NGO cooperation should be explored. While the CSCE does not generally use this type of intervention, and it is clear that the CSCE and NGOs are working in a complementary manner in this area, further exploration is needed to identify precisely how the NGO could conduct such interventions in a manner complementary to CSCE efforts.

Limitations to cooperation that need further exploration include:

- (i) Conflict prevention and conflict management deal with national security issues, which are often restricted and confidential. This confidentiality could cause NGO involvement in this area to be restricted.
- (ii) Political differences between the two bodies, e.g. in their approach, their ideology, and their different points of access within society, need careful further exploration and consideration.

### 5. Recommendations

Participants at the seminar agreed upon concrete actions to be recommended for consideration at the upcoming CSCE Review Conference in Budapest, as follows:

- (i) The CSCE should recognize politically that NGOs can be a useful agent for conflict resolution, conflict management and conflict prevention, and that NGOs are working in a complementary fashion to the CSCE in this field. A strong desire was expressed to develop the relationship but participants felt that at this time there is no need to further formalize the relationship between the CSCE and NGOs.



## CSCE/NGO Seminar Summary

- (ii) The CSCE should provide to NGOs information about its political priorities and strategies, which could serve as a useful guidance for NGOs willing to support the CSCE in their practical actions.
- (iii) Better information exchange is needed in both directions between the CSCE and NGOs. The CSCE now conducts liaison with NGOs. Better channels of communication should be established between the CSCE and NGOs working in the area of conflict prevention. The following specific actions are recommended:
- The NGO liaison function at CSCE institutions (e.g., the Secretariat, the National Delegations, the High Commissioner of National Minorities, and the ODIHR) requires more staff time and more attention to conflict prevention and conflict management.
  - NGOs should be allowed better access to CSCE meetings. For example, at the Budapest meeting, the terms of access are limited to the Human Dimension Working Group. NGOs in the conflict resolution field request broader, or different, access in order to be better prepared to contribute to CSCE activities.
  - Regular seminars on CSCE/NGO cooperation in conflict management and prevention should be organized in Vienna. Furthermore, there should be support for regional workshop to be specifically held by the ODIHR and potentially by other CSCE institutions, to address CSCE/NGO cooperation in conflict prevention and conflict management.
- (iv) The conveners of this seminar should write a report of the seminar describing the broad range of ideas and discussion that were evident. The



## CSCE/NGO Seminar Summary

report should be submitted to national delegations at the Budapest meeting, with the understanding that it seeks to inform, rather than seeking commitment.

Participants further discussed that communication between the community of NGOs that deal with conflict prevention and conflict management and the CSCE could be improved through concrete actions taken by the NGOs. The CSCE also wished to send a clear message to this community as follows:

- (i) The NGOs should be better organized on both a national and a regional basis to assist the CSCE in identifying and communicating with appropriate members of this NGO community.
- (ii) The NGOs are encouraged to take part in parallel activities with the CSCE in Budapest and elsewhere.
- (iii) The NGOs need to help the CSCE find entry points to the NGO community.
- (iv) The NGOs need to help the CSCE to gain a broader understanding of the wide range of NGOs and the differences between them.

To summarize, both the CSCE and NGO participants in the seminar felt that a relationship between the CSCE and NGOs in the field of conflict prevention and management has the potential to be very valuable. Now, many aspects of the relationship require more time and reflection.

Finally, the seminar participants requested that the NGO convener of this seminar address the CSCE delegates at the Review Conference in Budapest, preferably through the national microphone, in order to share the ideas, feelings and recommendations from the seminar.





**CSCE/NGO Seminar Summary****EXPLORING THE POTENTIAL FOR COLLABORATION  
BY THE CSCE AND NGOS ON PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY:  
A Seminar in StadtSchlaining, Austria, 23-24 September 1994****PARTICIPANT LIST****CSCE PARTICIPANTS**

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Ambassador Simon W.J. Fuller, Head of the UK Delegation  
Ambassador Dimitrios Nezeritis, Head of the Mission of Greece  
Mr. Martin Krasznai, Head of the Mission of Hungary  
Ambassador Mario Sica, Head of the Italian Delegation  
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Mr. Mark Entine, Member of the Delegation of the Russian Federation  
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## CSCE/NGO Seminar Summary

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