

# **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 Office at Vienna, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice  
Division  
Forum on Early Warning and Early Response (FEWER)*

Under the auspices of the Ministry of Justice of Italy

Draft Programme

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

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## DRAFT PROGRAMME

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;  
PIOOM 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:**

**Eduardo Vetere**, Officer-in-Charge, Crime Prevention and  
Criminal Justice Division, United Nations

**Keynote Speaker:**

*Political Conflicts and Individual Decisions*

**Giandomenico Picco**, Former Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations for Political Affairs

*Magnitudes and Trends in Violent Intra-State Conflicts*

**Klaus Schlichte**, Arbeitsgruppe Kriegsursachenforschung, Hamburg, Germany

*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**, Dean Emeritus, Annenberg School of Journalism, Philadelphia, USA

*Questions/ Debate*

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

**Milton Leitenberg**, Center for International Security, University of Maryland, College Park, USA

**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 Countries in Transition, Lessons from Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*

**Vera Mehta**, Ph. D. Special Assistant to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, United Nations Preventive Deployment Force, 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, ID, USA

*Questions/ Debate*

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

**Teferra Shiawl**, Senior Advisor, Early Warning Policy,  
Department of Humanitarian Affairs UNO, New York

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

**21.00 Workshop** (optional), Chaired by **Alex P. Schmid**, ISPAC Executive Board Member; PIOOM 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*

**Ingo von Ruckteschell**, Long Island University, New York; Chief (Ret.) United Nations Secretariat

*Questions/ Debate*

*The Role of FEWER in Conflict and Crime Prevention*

**David Nyheim**, Coordinator, 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**

***Chair:***

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

Conclusion and recommendations

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Coffee breaks will be at 11.00 and 17.00

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

Milan, August 1997