

18 July 1997

Main Items of the Proposal

Conflict prevention and its early resolution is one of the urgent tasks for the United Nations today, particularly in the face of many conflicts in African continent, and yet no practical means is taken since the establishment of OAU central mechanism.

Following is some proposals to enhance the conflict prevention capability in Africa by the United Nations; additional suggestions for practical measures could be made. Each of the elements could be implemented by international organizations and non-governmental organizations respectively according to their jurisdiction, their financial responsibilities and regulations. It should be noted, however, that their efforts are to be coordinated by the United Nations (Secretary-General).

For the effective coordination and organization of financial, personnel and other contributions from donor countries, the Secretary-General should establish a Contact Group that would work with donor countries, the respective UN bodies, non-governmental organizations as well as the African countries involved in the conflict.

(1) Creation of a joint training programme between the UN and the OAU to enhance the early warning and rapid deployment capabilities at the sub-regional levels (East, West, Central, South, North Africa and also in the Great Lakes region).

(2) Likewise, the establishment of stockpiles of basic non-lethal equipment sufficient in quality and quantity to cover the needs of the respective sub-regions. The supply depots should be established at at least two locations in Africa. The training of personnel should take place at those locations.

(3) Likewise, the establishment of a unit in the Secretariat (and within the framework of rapid deployment headquarters) to facilitate exchange and communication among the staffs of contributing countries in order to enhance the capability of operational and command units.

(4) Exploration of mechanisms for realizing in a comprehensive and organic manner, cooperation between the UN and the OAU which would include early warning/rapid deployment assistance and support for humanitarian and human rights activities.

(note: This idea would be initially proposed by Japan in the Security Council in connection with the Great Lakes region. The observation of the situation from daily activities and proposals of concrete mechanisms would be included in the mandate of Joint Special Representative Sahnoun. After the staff is increased and the idea is implemented as a model project, the findings would be included in the Secretary-General's report on the initiative.)