



***Informal Seminar on
“The United Nations and Democracy”***

***22-23 October 2001
Jesus College, Cambridge University***

Provisional Agenda

Objectives

- To review and analyze how democratisation issues have been handled in the following selected past and on-going UN operations: Haiti, Bosnia/Kosovo, East Timor
- To examine complex challenges of democratisation in different places and attempt to draw lessons-learned that can be useful for the future
- To gather substantive inputs from participants to prepare for a larger conference planned in February 2002 in New York on the same theme, hosted by International IDEA with the participation of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan
- A short policy brief will be prepared after this meeting, to be sent to the UN, which can be useful for its possible future role in Afghanistan

Monday, 22 October 2001

11.30-12.30 Opening Session

11.30 **Welcome by the host — Emma Rothschild** – Centre for History and Economics, Cambridge University

Project Background and Objectives — Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu-Lennartsson, International IDEA

12.00 **Democracy Support and UN Operations**

Mr. William Shawcross, Journalist and author, UK

Mr. Michael Williams, Senior Adviser to the Foreign Secretary, UK

What are the new trends and agendas in UN operations? What does democracy support mean for the UN today and in the near future? Should “democracy support” be UN’s business? What are the lessons from the past that could be potentially useful for Afghanistan?

Discussions

12.30-14.00 **Lunch**

14.00-16.30	Case I – Bosnia/Kosovo
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How can we promote democratization after violent ethnic conflicts? How do we balance the need to let local political actors drive the political process of democratization with security/stability considerations? What are “democratic measures” that are particularly useful for peacebuilding after ethnic conflict? How much lead should the international community take in the process, when we know that true democracy can only be built from within? Did the international community learned lessons after Bosnia and applied them to Kosovo? What are the options for international community for “division of labour” between the UN, regional organizations, donor governments, etc, in a complex operation such as Bosnia and Kosovo? What are possible roles for the UN in this regard?

Presentation: **Dr. David Chandler**, Research Fellow, Policy Research Institute, Leeds Metropolitan University, UK. Author of “Bosnia: Faking Democracy after Dayton”

Discussants: **Mr. Jeff Fischer**, Senior Advisor for Elections, International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES), Washington DC, USA
Dr Richard Caplan, Centre for International Studies, Oxford, UK

Discussions

Tuesday, 23 October 2001

9.00-11.30	Case II: Haiti
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In many respects, the international effort to consolidate democracy in Haiti following the 1994 intervention is considered a successful model. The UN’s close co-operation with the OAS, effective use of political pressure from the Security Council, smooth interagency co-ordination between various UN components, effective humanitarian aid, among others, resulted in the creation of favourable security conditions in Haiti for democratic political development. And yet, the Haiti case demonstrates the difficulties of promoting nation-building and democratic development in conditions of poverty – the conditions that created violence in the first place. What more do we have to consider for strategies for democratic development?

Presentation: **Dr. Beatrice Pouligny**, Research Fellow, Center for International Studies and Research (CERI), Sciences-Po. Paris, France

Discussants: **Ms. Claudette Werleigh**, Conflict Transformation Programmes Director, Life & Peace Institute, Uppsala, Sweden

Dr. Eirin Mobekk, MacArthur Post-Doctoral Research Associate, Department of War Studies, King’s College London, UK

Discussions

11.30-11.45 **Coffee Break**

11.45-15.15	Case III: East Timor/(Kosovo)
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What are specific needs for the UN's transitional administration operations? Should the UN be involved in transitional administration in the future? If so, what should be the scope of UN's responsibility and authority? Do we have means to gather and analyse information on local traditional political systems and capacities, and apply them in the UN administration? Capacity building? How can we promote democratization process in the transitional administration? What are the strategies for transferring authority to the local administration, ensuring the continuation of democratic development?

Presentation: **Dr. Simon Chesterman**, Associate, International Peace Academy (IPA), New York, USA

Discussants: **Fabrizio Hochschild**, Deputy Representative of UNHCR Belgrade, Former special assistant to the Secretary General's Special Representative in East Timor

Discussions

12.30-13.30 **Lunch**

15.15-16.15	Concluding session
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Discussions: What are some of the common key issues and lessons-learned? How can or should the UN support democratization efforts? Partnerships? Strategies and policy frameworks? What does this mean for future UN operations?

Discussants: **Mr. Michael Williams**, Senior Adviser to the Foreign Secretary, UK

16.15 **End of Workshop**