

Director's Report

I begin this report in our inaugural newsletter with a simple observation: We have come a long way! And I know that the road ahead is even longer and more challenging, but we shall not retreat. In this report, I will summarize the nascent history of the Center for African Peace & Conflict Resolution (CAPCR), its activities and accomplishments, and vision.

CAPCR was officially approved by CSUS President Gerth in January 1996; the result of almost 2 years conceptualizing, conference debates and resolutions, consultations with numerous individuals and groups, and a series of CSUS approval levels. It is housed in the School of Health & Human Services at CSUS, and is administered by a director and a very diverse Advisory Board of CSUS and community members. Motivated by the scourge of intra-state conflicts in Africa and interpersonal violence among African-Americans, CAPCR's mission is to provide conflict resolution, conciliation, peace-building services and research for Africans and her Diaspora; including groups, institutions, organizations, governments in Africa and U.S.

CAPCR's goal is to serve as an interdisciplinary service and research institute, with the objectives to:

1. Develop and provide conflict resolution training, systems design, and advice for public and private agencies, organizations and communities;

2. Develop and implement peace education programs and activities, including curriculum design and materials;

3. Conduct research and evaluations on conflict situations, and serve as a conflict resolution clearinghouse/ resource center;

4. Establish institutional and community network of support and collaboration in U.S. & Africa on conflict resolution/peace-building;

5. Assist in conflict mediation, arbitration, and negotiation facilitation, when possible and with consent of parties;

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6. Organize and manage conflict resolution/peace education conferences, seminars, summit, workshops, grants & projects, and monitor/supervise elections.
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Major Accomplishments

Since its founding in 1996, CAPCR has conducted many notable activities and projects:

1. Organized a conference (with the African Studies coalition) in May 1996 on "The African Woman: Agenda for the 21st Century";
2. Hosted and managed a project on "Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in West Africa" in Summer 1996; a project funded by the U.S. Information Agency to train 12 senior lawyers and judges from Ghana, Senegal, and Nigeria on court and community ADR in U.S.;
3. Conducted ADR workshops in Summer 1997 for over 140 lawyers, judges, and university professors in Ghana, Senegal, and Nigeria, and assisted our partners in these countries in developing ADR centers and curricular--project also funded by the U.S. Information Agency;
4. Organized a seminar on "Interethnic & religious conflict resolution in Nigeria" in January 1997, followed by workshops in March 1997 on "ethnic and religious conflict management" for over 60 participants from community leaders, and traditional rulers in Nigeria, a project funded by the U.S. Institute for Peace;
5. Organized a conference in May 1997 on "African/African American Organizations in U.S.: Agenda for Economic-Political Empowerment in 21st Century";

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6. Conducted with CSUS Office of International programs a U.S. Dept. of Education Fulbright funded study abroad project on "democracy, gender politics, and culture" in Tanzania in Summer 1997 for a 16 university-secondary school faculty member team from Northern California, to enrich their African studies curriculum and teaching through their first-hand knowledge of the country and scholarly interactions with their counterparts in Tanzania.

In addition to the above accomplishments, we have organized several seminars and community forums on various conflicts and race relations, hosted over 50 visiting scholars and dignitaries to CSUS/Sacramento from various parts of Africa, U.S., Europe and Asia; mediated several public agency and group disputes and made numerous presentations on African conflicts and peace-building education in the Sacramento area. Although, we have enjoyed some success, funding remains our greatest challenge. Limited staff adjuncts and trainers have sacrificed a lot of their time and money in achieving our objectives, and we hope to minimize this financial austere condition through our on-going fundraising efforts.

We plan to add to our accomplishments in our future program and projects. We are currently brainstorming an idea to develop an "Africa peace project," a landmark proposal that is cross national in scope, multidisciplinary in its inquiry of conflicts/violence among populations and states, and collaborative in its problem-solving approach. Also, we hope to develop an Africa Peace Studies Exchange of students, scholars, professionals, policy makers, and community leaders between the U.S. & Africa. We will continue our collaborations with local agencies in youth violence prevention and mentor programs by lending our expertise and knowledge on conflict resolution and peace education.

In conclusion, it is my vision that CAPCR will continue to make critical contributions to our understanding, prevention, and resolution of conflicts and violence in our highly interdependent world, by combining theory and practical knowledge. I believe that the Center is both timely and much needed. It has all the potential of becoming a major site for conflict resolution services and peace education in the U.S. and Africa.

I thank the countless number of you who have supported us morally and financially, and I hope we continue to earn your support and confidence. My deep gratitude goes to those who contributed in varied ways at the conception of the Center: my colleagues in the African Studies Coalition and Criminal Justice Division/School of Health & Human Services at CSUS; CSUS Office

International Programs (Dr. Royce Shaw), Pan African/Ethnic Studies (Drs. David Covin & Otis Scott); the various African community organizations in Sacramento, the Sacramento Rites of Passage Alliance and California Legislative Black Caucus. I'm equally grateful to the support and helpful comments on the CAPCR proposal from Professors Roger Fisher of Harvard Law School, George Ayittey of American University, Robert Divie of Western Michigan University, Ed Keller of UCLA African Studies Center, Donald Rothchild of University of California, Davis, Mr. Tom Schaub of CMG in Cambridge, D. T. Orjiako of the O.A.U. Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; and the African Studies Association. I continue to solicit and welcome your support for CAPCR and its programs, to enable us to meet our goals and objectives.

PEACE!!!!!!!

Ernest E. Uwazie, Ph.D.

Director & Founder, CAPCR & Associate Professor, Criminal Justice

Thank You to:

CAPCR Summer 1996 & 1997 ADR Workshop Trainers Daniel Yamshon, Thelma Johnson, John Welsh, Don Carper, & Patricia Malberg, Peter Nwosu & Ernest Uwazie for their great work, dedication and sacrifices;

the ADR project coordinators in West Africa: Henrietta Mensa-Bonsu of the University Ghana Faculty of Law in Legon, Olawale Ajai of the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies in Lagos, and El hadj Mbodj of the Institute of Human Rights and Peace at the Universite Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar Senegal--for all their hard work;

Audrey Moore, Linda Goodrich and Ernest Uwazie as co-directors of the 1996 & 1997 conferences;

Donald Taylor as Editor of CAPCR's inaugural newsletter and Peggy Allan as Editorial Assistant; and

Cecil Canton, as Chair of CAPCR Board & all the Board Members for their dedicated service.

The Chairman's Comments

Welcome to the first CAPCR Newsletter! It gives me great pleasure to take this opportunity in this our inaugural edition to pay homage to those individuals who have worked so hard and so unselfishly to make this Center a success: the members of the Advisory Board.

It has been my experience that centers, such as CAPCR, take on a life of their own. They also begin to form a distinctive personality. The life is usually the

result of the Center's founder, but the personality belongs to the Board of Directors. Our Board members have influenced and shaped the personality of the Center, making it a lively, energetic, thoughtful, challenging, and community-centered organization with a global reach. For their commitment, and dedication, vision and foresight, energy and enthusiasm, we are eternally grateful and proud!

I could not close my comments without reflecting upon the role of the Advisory Board and the challenge that we have established for ourselves and the Center. The Center's Advisory Board serves as a sounding and advisory group to the Center's Director. We provide him with our best advice in matters pertaining to the center's mission and goals. We are also instrumental in assisting in the development of the Center with respect to program delivery, outreach and fundraising activities. Last, but not least, we are the community and public relations arm of the Center, striving to ensure that the Center's programmatic initiatives are well supported by and in the communities we serve.

Please forgive my indulgence while I take the chair's prerogative to identify this stalwart group (alphabetically) by name: Dr. Mary Braham, Mr. Kofi Hemeng, Ms. Patricia Holmes, Dr. Bill Lee-Sammons, Mr. Marangu M'Marate, Dr. Jessie Mulira, Rev. Tongele Ngbatana, Dr. Kweisi Ngissah, Dr. Arline Prigoff, Dr. Thyra Sampson, Dr. Hortense Simmons, Dr. John Shoka, Dr. Donald Taylor, Mr. Leonard Valdez. My colleagues have made my first year as Chairman of the Board a satisfying and challenging experience, resonant with optimism and confidence for the future! It is fitting that they are recognized for their outstanding contributions to the Center in the inaugural edition of its newsletter. This communication instrument will provide members and the community alike with vital information about the Center's past and current activities, and insights into its future. Welcome to the first CAPCR Newsletter, but certainly not the last!

Dr. Cecil E. Canton
Chairman, CAPCR Advisory Board

Announcements

Solicitation and Nomination for CAPCR

1998 Peace Awards

CAPCR solicits nominations from individuals, organizations, institutions and other private/public agencies for its 1998 African Peace Awards. Nominees must have excellent record accomplishments in the area of peace education and conflict resolution/violence prevention services or research on and/or involving Africa(ns). Such work could be domestic (in U.S.) or international in scope, or cross-cultural. Send your nominations before February 12, 1998 to the Awards Committee c/o:

Professor Ernest Uwazie, Director

Center for African Peace & Conflict Resolution
California State University, Sacramento
Sacramento, CA 95819-6085

Explore AFRICA 1998

You are invited to join the forthcoming Cultural and Educational Tours of Africa tentatively scheduled for July and August, 1998. Visit such places as Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, and the Republic of South Africa and obtain a first hand perspective on Africa. You will be assisted by leading experts on Africa through the joint sponsorship of this program by the Center for African Peace and Conflict Resolution (CAPCR), the African Studies Coalition (ASC), the CSUS Department of Government, and Office of International Programs.

For details on tentative itinerary, contact Professors Ernest Uwazie at (916)278-6282 or John Shoka at (916)922-0375 or Royce Shaw at (916)278-6686. Costs will be announced in the near future. You may also write to the following address:

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Article by Guest Scholar

Peace Communication and Conflict Resolution in Africa

Cecil Blake

Indiana University Northwest

As we move rapidly towards the dawning of the 21st century, Africa has an enormous task: seeking a more comprehensive approach to the resolution of protracted conflicts that continue to afflict the continent. Such a task cannot be embarked upon by governments and supra-national organizations alone, or non-academic institutions that address issues of peace and conflict resolution. There is a major role as well for educational institutions as they conduct research and impart knowledge in various disciplines. The recognition of the importance of expanding and supporting the efforts of all organizations -- with added emphasis on educational institutions -- to search for a more comprehensive approach to the resolution of conflict motivates the writing of this article.

Among the possible novel approaches that ought to be considered is the role of peace communication both as a pre-emptive mechanism against the escalation of conflict and as a key factor in working towards the resolution of extant conflicts. I introduce in this article the concept of peace communication grounded in the understanding and utilization of what I refer to as cultural warrants.

Before delving further into a discussion on cultural warrants and peace communication, a brief mention on the existing situation in the African continent is necessary. Conflicts have pervaded the African scene over the last thirty years, and seem to be escalating.

Several countries in the continent are either engaged in civil or inter-ethnic wars, or are in the process of transition to a hard won fragile peace. The situation in Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Burundi, Algeria, Comoros Islands, Angola, Mozambique and Angola are but a few examples. The cost of the wars in human terms alone is mind-boggling and exasperating. The material costs will keep some of the countries in debt for generations to come. Accessibility to arms is unabated, and countries enjoying peace in the west and several troubled nations in the Southern hemisphere are grossly culpable for participating in the proliferation of arms in Africa.

Mercenaries are emerging as viable corporations. The "Executive Outcomes" of South Africa, for instance is one such mercenary corporate structure that carried out operations in Angola. The same group of mercenaries were hired also by a previous government of Sierra Leone. The military establishment and warring factions in the continent represent the basic instruments of terror being perpetrated against innocent women, children and men. The victims, unfortunately, are the poorest of the poor in the countries experiencing civil strife. The scenario above is heart-rending but true. It paints a bleak picture of conditions of life in troubled African nations but accurate. The challenge looms in front of all Africans and well-meaning friends and sympathizers. The nature of the challenge, however, requires close scrutiny since an inaccurate and/or incomplete assessment of the challenge has continued to produce negative results in efforts to achieve peace in the Africa region. It is this pervasive failure in reaching peace that makes it incumbent on all concerned to have mechanisms in various forms -- specialized research centers, think tanks, and specialized units in supra-national organizations such as the Organization of African Unity -- that ought to be vigorous in defining and assessing the challenges to peace in the African continent and providing remedies that will ensure an acceptable degree of peace and stability in the region.

What is the nature of the challenge? Fundamentally, we need to establish in clear terms why Africa has been seriously locked in conflict situations over the past thirty years without enjoying a much-needed peace -- a basic requirement for national development. Efforts at establishing the reasons for a conflict-ridden society are not merely a "political" or "sociological" function. It is in large part a function of communication as well -- identifying problems involved in communicating intentions, justifications, and explanations or reasons why factions emerge that carry out destabilizing behavior by engaging in protracted civil wars.

It is the combined efforts of experts involved in a cross section of disciplines that will contribute to the elucidation of the reasons why a region like Africa, for example, has been hounded by conflicts which have held the continent back, and affected the quality of life and the well-being of ordinary citizens.

The absence of peace is a deterrent to investments by nationals and foreign concerns interested in working within the economic framework of African states. The problem also impacts upon the ability of both the public and private sectors to provide adequate medical care for citizens who do not have the means of traveling to distant lands in the west for yearly check-ups or immediate medical care. Not only is the impact visible in terms of dissuading potential investors, and the problems encountered in the delivery of health care, the absence of peace has resulted in the destruction of infrastructure, massive interruptions in the school systems of the countries concerned, and unwarranted delays in getting citizens properly educated. And, most disheartening of all is the disintegration of the "state."

Stemming from the above, it is apparent that the nature of the challenge is such that efforts on resolving conflicts should not solely be directed to providing arms to warring factions in order to "win" such wars, or to the convening of the conferences and special sessions to determine how to save the faces of all involved in conflicts, or to determine rewards in the form of incentives for perpetrators of terror, who end up with safe passages abroad and/or scholarships for higher education in order to remove them from the scene. Africa is not in want of negotiators drafting peace accords that are either never implemented or at best, half-heartedly implemented. It is precisely because of the above that we need to broaden the basis of seeking additional ways of handling conflicts and achieving lasting peace in Africa. The role of peace communication becomes important here as an additional way of dealing with resolution of conflicts.

Peace communication is defined as a communication process aimed at achieving peace, with a distinct suasive characteristic feature operating within a context comprising of cultural warrants which form the bases for justification of actions. Because of its suasive feature, peace communication is entirely committed to the use of persuasive strategies. Its architectonic art is rhetoric. The term "rhetoric" usually evokes responses that are negative. For instance, the term connotes in the minds of many "empty talk" or "deceptiveness," or even a conscious act of evading substantive issues.

The way it is used here -- as the architectonic art of peace communication -- follows a tradition of thousands of years during which "rhetoric" has been taught as a subject-matter mainly concerned with effective expression across major speech communication genres. Many universities in the United States have majors in communication studies with emphasis on rhetorical theory and analysis. Scholars in rhetorical communication in particular are generally in agreement

with the assumption that communication -- particularly rhetorical communication -- plays a significant role in promoting cooperation and social cohesion among people, which helps in the reduction of misunderstandings and resolution of exigencies. There is a woeful absence of that emphasis, however, in practically all African universities.

The background above is presented to set the context within which cultural warrants should be understood, which form the main ingredients for successful peace communication in conflict resolution. In short, the argument advanced here is that in situations of conflicts that give priority to suasory means through peace communication strategies with a strong emphasis on cultural warrants. Since "warrants" play a central role in the implementation of suasory strategies, they require close attention.

Let us examine the nature of "warrants." Steven Toulmin in a seminal work in 1958, presented the anatomy of arguments. He contended that arguments comprise the following constituent elements: data or evidence; claim or proposition; warrant -- the basis upon which evidence is grounded enabling one to justify claims/propositions; support for such warrants in the form of precedents & reservations -- situations in which certain exceptions can be accommodated; qualifiers -- that protect the nature of claims by introducing a degree of "probability," and concessions -- accepting bits of evidence that cannot be dismissed easily, yet not strong enough to defeat one's position.

The idea of cultural warrants introduced here is influenced by Toulmin's treatment of warrants. Having examined several peace making efforts in the African continent in particular, the conclusion arrived at by this author is that not enough emphasis has been placed on delving into those cultural warrants that serve as justification for the prosecution of wars. It is posited that the extent to which such warrants are unearthed and properly understood will determine the effectiveness of persuasive strategies utilized in achieving peaceful resolutions of conflicts in Africa. Thus, what should be aimed for in situations of conflict is the discovery of means grounded in cultural warrants located within the dominant normative structures within which communication takes place, that will facilitate the achievement of peace through dialogue.

The key questions that one needs to raise are: (i) what are cultural warrants; (ii) where are the warrants to be unearthed located; and (iii) are there available people trained to unearth them? Cultural warrants are defined as bases upon which evidence/data and actions are grounded, defended and justified in any given culture. The main thrust here is that "cultural dimension" gives validity to the particular warrant being evoked.

In terms of their location, I have stated elsewhere that they are to found "in various sources in society -- sacred and secular -- among which are religious documents, beliefs and practices, and other sources such as historical inter-ethnic

relations, kinship structures, positive laws, customs and traditions" (Blake, 1997). Hence, they are deeply lodged in the mores and traditions of any given society. For instance in the west, cultural warrants are documents such as the constitution, positive laws, and the Bible, which are generally accepted as bases upon which individuals and groups take action, and instances involving legal issues, upon which adjudication is predicated. If we observe closely the practices of Islamic states, it is clear that the Sharia stands as the ultimate warrant. Among many Jews, the Torah and the Talmud represent the ultimate warrants.

The loci of cultural warrants in the African context are to be found in "the traditions and religions of various ethnic groups, clans, secret societies, the overall content of oral and written tradition, and the transmission of social and cultural lore. The cultural warrants are dictated by family, clan and ethnic patterns of 'acceptable' behavior among various cohorts in society, world view and the fundamental value and belief systems" (Blake, 1997).

Given the above, one can conclude that cultural warrants are so deeply lodged in communities and society at large, that they are resistant to change, and that people who believe very strongly in the "rightness" of their warrants can defend their causes with their blood. Such firm convictions may explain why some groups will tend to kill en masse in order to "protect" or "defend" the sanctity of such warrants. In this vein, cultural warrants provide a rationale for actions that lead to confrontations. In efforts to find a lasting peace in conflict situations, it is important, therefore, that the cultural warrants are fully understood, and appropriate suasive strategies developed that will reflect such an understanding. Suasive strategies presuppose a significant degree of empathy in the sense that in order for one to advance a position/proposition successfully, one has to be quite conversant with the "totality" of the context of the audience being addressed or with whom one interacts. Since it is conceivable that people can go to war grounding their action on a cultural warrant, one could perhaps seek ways of redressing the problem before it escalates to war. If on the other hand the war is already underway, getting at the appropriate cultural warrant(s) upon which the war is justified, can facilitate the construction of suasive strategies that may help bring about peace. The above is the *raison d'etre* for advancing the proposition that peace communication is a viable and important element that requires full application in efforts to prevent and/or resolve conflicts.

This brings the discussion to the final question: are their people trained in peace communication that will work on unearthing the cultural warrants? The quick answer is: very few people may be available with the background and training required. As mentioned earlier, African institutions do not have courses in rhetorical theory and analyses which are fundamental for work in peace communication predicated on the handling of cultural warrants. One must be careful also in ascertaining that even where someone has cursory training in

rhetorical theory and analysis, that there is evidence of a track record in working on peculiar African rhetorical contexts. In addition to preparation in rhetoric, the would-be peace communication expert will also require a strong background in intercultural communication. It is the combination of both areas with more than adequate knowledge of African contexts that form the basis for work in this area. Naturally, the peace communication expert alone will not provide the solution to a crisis as complex as war, or a serious breakdown in law and order. After locating the given cultural warrant(s) he/she has to work in concert with others involved in the negotiating process: social scientists, politicians, traditional leaders and others who will contribute to the development of a more wholesome set of persuasive strategies. The absence of involvement of peace communication experts (even though few are available) in the entire conflict resolution process requires immediate attention and rectification.

In conclusion, among the challenges faced by academic institutions, specialized research centers, supra-national organizations and some non-governmental organizations concerned with peace is the setting up of training programs aimed at producing peace communication experts. As the critical mass of experts grow, so will research into peace communication as articulated herein, in efforts to improve the emphasis and sharpen its focus. As conflicts seem to become and more intractable, academic institutions and organizations interested in conflict resolution and the achievement of peace should consider incorporating several aspects of the foregoing into their curricula and training activities respectively.

References

Blake, C. (1997). Conflict Resolution: A role for peace communication. *The Journal of African Communications*. Spring, Vol. 2, No. 1.

Toulmin, S. (1958). *The Uses of Argument*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Cecil Blake is with the Department of Communication at Indiana University Northwest. He has taught at the State University of New York at Buffalo; Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, and at Howard University, Washington, D.C. Dr. Blake worked for six year at the United Nations University in Tokyo, Japan, and three years at the International Development Research Center in Ottawa, Canada, and Nairobi Kenya. He has published widely in communication and information related areas with particular emphasis on Africa. The opinions expressed in this essay are those of the author and not of CAPCR or CSUS.

Solicitation for Africa Conflict Resolution Partners and Consultants

We seek partners and consultants for our Africa Peace Education and Conflict Resolution programs and projects. We are interested in individuals, especially

scholars and practitioners, who can conduct research, training workshops & seminars, mediation/negotiation/arbitration sessions, and evaluations on conflict resolution in/on Africa(ns) and her Diaspora. Such partners and consultants will also be expected to explore, initiate, and develop fundable projects/programs on conflict resolution/peace education. Condition of service and fees are negotiable. If you are interested, send a letter of interest and objectives, plus no more than a 4-page resume or biography to:

Attention: Professor Ernest Uwazie, Director
Center for African Peace & Conflict Resolution
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Peace Process in Angola

The United States Institute of Peace spent some time in Angola exploring how international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and the Angolan government can promote peace reconciliation in Angola as part of the post war peace process. Majority of the findings that were put together by the peace team were directed primarily at Angola, but they could also apply to other countries engaged in peace building. The Angolan government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola signed the Lusaka Protocol on November 20, 1994. The protocol provided for a cease-fire, the integration of the two armies, and a government of national unity at the central and provincial levels. The most difficult challenge for the promotion of reconciliation at both the middle and grassroots levels is the fact that Angola is a divided country with little travel permitted across the demarcation lines. The contacts of humans across the borders would help build peace according to the peace team. The peace team suggested that for the Angolan or international NGOs to be successful in promoting peace and reconciliation, they need to: (i) organize joint training programs and development projects that bring together local groups from the two opposing sides; (ii) use media to promote peace, in part by training journalists; (iii) undertake policy analysis of constitutional, economic, and educational issues to ensure that future government policies promote reconciliation; (iv) develop a corps of trained mediators to mediate local and national disputes. These suggestions are offered as options for future considerations for Angola and for other NGOs in other countries in Africa that are experiencing continuing cycles of conflict.

Burundi

In September this year, the U.N. sponsored a meeting in Paris to seek a common ground that could end years of conflict in the country. Over 60 delegates representing a cross section of Burundi politics attended. These representative that attended the peace talks included President Pierre Buyoya, the armed forces and all the various Burundian factions and political groups as well as numerous religious and social organizations.

Congo

Peace talks were called by President Bongo and the international mediator Mohammed Sahnoun in June 1997. The peace talk was attended by Presidents Deby of Chad, Ange-Felix Patasse of the Central African Republic, and Alpha Oumar Konari of Mali, which resulted in a cease-fire on June 18th. The cease-fire was however not respected. Other presidents such as Abdou Diouf of Senegal and Gnassingbe Eyadema of Togo, with other peace organizations met in Libreville, Gabon in trying to resolve the bloody conflict that is tearing apart the state of Congo, Brazzaville. The Red Cross and other human rights organizations are trying to resolve the conflict because on October 7, there were clashes between militiamen loyal to rival leaders. Supporters of the Congolese President Pascal Lissoubou and the forces of former head of state Denis Sassou Nguesso left at least 4000 people dead.

Uganda

In September of this year, the U.S. embassy in Uganda urged the government to negotiate with the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels, to end the bloody civil war which has gripped northern Uganda. The U.S. consultant Robert Gersony for the U.S. embassy and the U.S. Agency for International Aid (USAID), recommended that peace talks with the LRA rebels were the only way to bring the decade long conflict to an end. The report compiled by the USAID consultant titled "The Anguish of Northern Uganda," documents the causes of the conflict by both the LRA in northern Uganda and by the West Nile Bank Front (WNBF) in northwest Uganda. This marks the first time a foreign government has endorsed peace talks between the Ugandan government and the LRA. All other peace talks organized by different peace organizations have been unsuccessful.

Rwanda

Peace may finally come to the people of Rwanda because conflict and peace resolution organized by neighboring countries and peace organizations were reached. This has finally put an end to the centuries of civil war in Rwanda between the Hutu and Tutsi. The United Nations and other human rights organizations urged the trials of hundreds of thousands of Hutu that committed genocide: the mass murder of people. Many of the perpetrators are being tried for genocide. Some Tutsi feel that some of the Hutu were forced to do what they did by the near totalitarian Hutu government. Expert on peace and conflict resolution

suggests that the Hutu and Tutsi need to learn about each other as people and not as murderers of each other. Only then will peace come to the people in Rwanda and the barrier be broken.

Sierra Leone

The ECOWAS Ministerial Committee of Five on Sierra Leone held a meeting in Conakry on October 22-23, 1997 and agreed to the following Peace Plan for Sierra Leone:

- the reinstatement of the legitimate government of President Tefan Kabbah within a period of six months
- the immediate cessation of hostilities
- cooperation of the junta with ECOMOG in order to peacefully enforce the sanctions
- disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of combatants
- the provision of humanitarian assistance
- return of refugees and displaced persons
- immunities and guarantees to the leaders of the May 25, 1997 coup d'etat
- modalities for broadening the power base in Sierra Leone.

The plan was accepted by representatives of the Sierra Leone junta. The specific elaboration of the plan is presented below.

1. Cessation of Hostilities:

It is considered that cessation of hostilities should come into force immediately. However, this will have to be accompanied by a monitoring and verification regime. Leaders of the various combatant units will be expected to disseminate information concerning these measures and ensure compliance with them. These measures will be supervised by ECOMOG, assisted by UN military observation group. The verification process will continue right up to the termination of the peace plan, i.e. 22 April 1998.

2. Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration of Combatants:

It is considered that a minimum of 30 days would be required to conduct an effective disarmament and demobilization of combatants. This should take place from 1 to 31 December, 1997. Given the nation-wide dislocation of infrastructures and administration, a simple and uncomplicated procedure is envisaged. Combatants will be directed to report at designated centers in order to be engaged in the disarmament process. ECOMOG will supervise the entire process of disarmament and demobilization. Where necessary, incentives may have to be provided to encourage the voluntary participation of combatants in all this process.

3. Humanitarian Assistance:

Considering that sanctions/embargoes will be strictly enforced throughout the period of the implementation of the Sierra Leone peace plan, the flows of humanitarian assistance beginning 14 November 1997 will continue to be

monitored by ECOMOG and UN military observers. To this effect, a mechanism will be established by ECOMOG to facilitate the flow of humanitarian assistance. All this will be worked within the context of UN Security Council Resolution.

4. Return of Refugees and Displaced Persons:

Recognizing that refugees, particularly those in neighboring countries, may wish to voluntarily return following the cessation of hostilities, UNHCR assistance should begin from 1 December, 1997.

5. Restoration of Constitutional Government and Broadening of the Power Base:

The restoration of constitutional order to Sierra Leone is at the heart of the ECOWAS peace plan. Consequently, it is considered necessary that the Government of Tejan Kabbah should be enabled to exercise effective control once he is restored to office on 22 May 1998. Nevertheless, it is recognized that for an enduring peace to be restored which will enjoy the support of the majority of Sierra Leoneans and the confidence of the subregion, efforts should be made to ensure that an all-inclusive government is evolved. In this regard, the goodwill and assistance of the international community, both financial and material, would be necessary.

The interest of the various parties in Sierra Leone should be suitably accommodated. Accordingly, it is recommended that the new Cabinet should be a cabinet of inclusion.

Furthermore, in order to accommodate the aspirations of their supporters, Board and Senior Civil Service appointments are to reflect broad national character. All the above power sharing formulas should come into effect 22 May 1998.

It is recognized that Corporal Foday Sankoh as a leader of RUF could continue to play an active role and participate in the peace process.

In the spirit of the Abidjan Accord and in the context of this Agreement, Corporal Foday Sankoh is expected to return to his country to make his contribution to the peace process.

6. Reintegration of Combatants:

All those who disarm as a result of the implementation of the peace process, should be provided with either job training to fit them for alternative employment or given scholarships and grants for further education. Access to education at all levels should be made available to all demobilized persons. Ex-combatants should be provided with assistance to facilitate their re-integration into their communities. We strongly appeal to the UN, OAU, ECOWAS and indeed the international community to render appropriate assistance to achieve this objective.

7. Donor Appeals for Emergency Humanitarian Assistance for Reconstruction and Rehabilitation:

The United Nations and the OAU in cooperation with ECOWAS are requested to launch these appeals as soon as hostilities cease.

8. Immunities and Guarantees:

It is considered essential that unconditional immunities and guarantees from prosecution be extended to all involved in the unfortunate events of 25 May, 1997 with effect from 22 May 1998.

Editor's Notes

A New Voice Beckons

This inaugural edition of Making Peace launches a new much needed voice for spreading awareness about issues and programs of the Center for African Peace and Conflict Resolution (CAPCR) at CSUS. The need for such a vehicle is timely. Universities, as centers of learning, teaching, and research, are increasingly being looked upon as sources of mediation in every area of human endeavor. Consequently, we see universities taking on the challenge in a number of ways. Here, CSUS has emphasized the need to internationalize the campus and to develop vibrant programs that help advance that objective. In part, the CAPCR is a response to that call. But the center is also a recognition of the need to fill a void in providing resources and appropriate skills to resolve problems that affect people of African descent both in the continent of Africa and in communities around the world.

This newsletter then is a vehicle for expressing that need and promoting activities which, from our standpoint, help to address conflict resolution and peace building for a major sector of the world's population. For Africa, in particular, this need is especially urgent. Centuries of colonialism, underdevelopment, and reckless neglect and destruction of human life has produced misery, instability, disease, war, dislocation, and alienation of its people. Religious, ethnic, political and economic turmoil abound. A torrent of human problems pervade and engulf that environment. Similarly, people of African descent in the Americas and elsewhere face tremendous struggles that relate to the youth, preservation of the family, nurturing of Afrocentric cultural values, and the need to attain economic and social parity with majority populations. The result of these problems can be seen in abject poverty, severe unemployment, senseless discrimination and disputes about basic social order.

The need then to provide appropriate skills and resources to tackle these myriad problems is quite apparent. But the absence of well-established programs and vehicles to help address the conflicts that emerge is even more alarming! This center is, for instance, quite unique for the programs it offers in the entire Western United States! Clearly the need for the Center and this newsletter is evident. It is vital, urgent, and crucial.

But it should also be stressed that the Center must brace itself to deal with major obstacles! University restructuring and consolidation programs; the ever increasing competition for scarce funds among equally needy recipients; the

dwindling pool of private and government sponsors; the case about specialization on Africa and its Diaspora in the midst of other competing interests; the sheer size and magnitude of the scope of work needed to deal with conflict mediation issues and the willingness of board members and participants to "walk-the-walk" and not just "talk-the-talk" (i.e., getting firm commitment).

These all point to major challenges ahead and crystallize the need for the Center to be strong, robust, focussed, and diligent in adhering to its objectives and goals and to be unrelenting in its efforts.

Through the pages of this newsletter the activities and projects of the Center will be chronicled on a regular basis. By so doing readers will, at once, be made aware of possibilities for the building of peace and conflict resolution in our communities around the world. It is for this reason that the inaugural edition focuses on peace communication as the mantra on which to place conflict resolution strategies. The article by Cecil Blake, scholar and author, eloquently explores the several ways in which peace communication becomes a substantive human force for cooperation, mutual understanding, and social cohesion. For too long, many observers have claimed lack of knowledge and lack of understanding as the principle culprits that help to produce conflict. Dr. Blake rightly argues the case for cultural warrants in the pursuit of peace strategies. The idea is that peace building efforts must have cultural relevance. Those whose training and background provide those skills should be best equipped to provide culturally relevant solutions. Any other approach is clearly moribund and will lead to unproductive outcomes. The symbolic value and contextual relevance of Dr. Blake's inaugural article then lies in bringing to the forefront the cutting edge approach that this center has embraced. It also underscores the need and value of a center that specializes in a clear cultural arena -- The African Diaspora. Already, the Center is off to a successful and brisk start. The programs in Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal, and Tanzania have produced people who are dedicated to adopting and disseminating relevant peace-building mechanisms in their communities. The other proposed workshops and the 7th Annual Conference on Africa are all part of the mix that will continue to make the Center's work valuable to certain segments of society. We invite you to participate: offer ideas, money, resources or whatever you believe will enhance what we are striving to attain. Through this newsletter a new window has been opened, a new vision of hope has been restored, a new voice is being heard in an ever-growing and fast-changing world. Help us, so that together we can help build a better human environment that is safe for diversity.

Don Taylor, Editor
Inaugural Edition

Comments from ADR Project Participants

Program for Promoting ADR in Senegal

July 14-17 and July 21-24, 1997

What are the two most important things you learned that you were not previously aware of?

The workshop opened a way of looking at different stages of mediation with a collaborative viewpoint of what needs to be done and especially what should not be done.

The techniques of mediation and the different phases; the potential importance of mediation for helping to solve problems between individuals.

In what specific ways can you use the information gained from this workshop?

By making an effort to share this knowledge with others; providing a model for the use of these tools.

To manage and prevent conflict in every context: family, professional and organizational.

Program for Promoting ADR in Nigeria

July 1-4 and July 7-10, 1997

What are the two most important things you learned that you were not previously aware of?

The mediation saves time and costs. Through the mediation process, one can achieve what litigation is out to achieve.

ADR methods are powerful and significant tools for reaching an early and amicable solution to conflicts and disputes.

In what specific ways can you use the information gained from this workshop?

It can help me in establishing good relationships in both my personal and official capacity. It can also help me in my profession as a lawyer. There have been instances where conflicts needed to be resolved, but how to go about it was not known.

It will be useful in dispute resolutions arising between and among children in the family, teaching them to negotiate points of disagreement and learning to accept the views of each other.

As a legal practitioner, I will always explore the possibility of settlement (mediation) before proceeding to the law court.

Program for Promoting ADR Awareness in Ghana

July 2-4 and July 7-10, 1997

What are the two most important things you learned that you were not previously aware of?

It is important to listen and look for underlying interests to every problem. Plan and prepare before doing any negotiation or mediation.

It gave me more insight into the concepts of negotiation and mediation. I saw a clear distinction between the roles of the mediator and the arbitrator.

In what specific ways can you use the information gained from this workshop?

To assist my employer to resolve some office cases which can easily be steered out of court. This will reduce the period being taken to dispose of a case and I hope litigants will be much appreciative. To train students and workers in the basic conflict resolution processes and mechanisms.

Conference Update: Report on 6th Annual African Studies Conference at CSUS

The Center for African Peace and Conflict Resolution (CAPCR) and the African Studies Coalition (ASC) celebrated their 6th Annual Conference at the California State University, Sacramento. The conference was held at the Redwood Room in the University Union, on May 1-3, 1997. The main focus of the conference was, '<An Agenda for Political-Economic Empowerment in the 21st Century,' for African/African-American Organizations in the U.S.

The guest speakers were, Mr. Melvin Foote, Executive Director for the Constituency for Africa, Washington, D.C.; Professor George B. N. Ayittey, from The American University, Washington, D.C.; Mr. Desmond T.

Orjiako, from the Organization of African University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Professor G.N. Uzoigwe, Imo State University, Owerri, Nigeria; Mr. James Shelby, President of the Sacramento Urban League. The panelists comprised of Ambassador Mustapha S. Nyang'anyi of Tanzania, and Ambassador Dr. Hassan Adamu of Nigeria.

The opening remarks were presented by the conference co-chairs and Director of the center, Dr. Ernest Uwazie, Dr. Linda Goodrich and Professor Audrey Moore. The issue of, "The Agenda for Political-Economic Empowerment in the 21st Century," was addressed by Mr. Melvin Foote. Dr. Ayittey addressed, "Black America Rediscovered Black Africa," Mr. Desmond Orjiako addressed, "Building a Constituency for Africa in U.S.: The O.A.U. Agenda," and Dr. Uzoigwe addressed, "Assessing the History African Organizations." The Dinner/Banquet address was given by Mr. James Shelby on the "Realities and Opportunities of African Americans/Africans in the New Global Economy."

Some of the resolutions that were reached at the conclusion of the conference were: Institutions and efforts for progress and development of Africans should be developed and expanded; African organizations for political, economic and cultural advancement and promotion of Africans needs to be developed; Human Rights in Africa should be respected; An all-African Peace Force should be created; Networks among U.S./African universities should be established; and Business linkages between African/Americans and Africans should be established and promoted.

The 7th Annual Conference, which will focus on The African Family and Youth will be held May 8th and 9th, 1998 at CSUS. Further information can be obtained from:

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Report on the Tanzania Project Faculty

Development Seminar:

Democracy, Gender and Ethnicity in Tanzania, Summer, 1997 by Prof. Shoka

The Fulbright-Hays Faculty Development Seminar on gender, ethnicity and democracy to Tanzania (July 8th-August 13th, 1997) was a great success. Funded by the USDE and supported by the Center for African Peace and conflict Resolution (CAPCR), the African Studies Coalition and the Office of International Programs at CSUS, this project involved 16 educators from Northern California, 8 university professors and 8 high school and primary school teachers. The purpose was to study issues of gender, ethnicity and democracy in Tanzania; essentially, the project was a cultural tour.

The group spent 13 days in Dar-es-Salaam attending lectures and seminars at the University of Dar. Delivered by Tanzania educators and community leaders e.g., Judge Mark Bomani, Professors Itandara, Meena and Dr. Fungo, these seminars and lectures touched on various aspects of gender, democracy and ethnicity e.g., What opportunities and obstacles do women encounter in Tanzania society? Is multi-party democracy working in Tanzania? To what extent is ethnic conflict a problem in Tanzania? Numerous insights and knowledge were provided by these seminars and lectures in response to the above issues.

Leaving Dar, the group paid a visit to the island of Zanzibar, the cities of Marangu, Moshi, Arusha and Mwanza. At each of these cities, arrangements were made to attend interesting community events and visit historic sites and educational institutions. For example, trade fairs, hospitals-modern and traditional-, primary and secondary schools, museums and church services were visited and observed. In Marangu, Mr. Kilimanjaro was visited; in Zanzibar and Bagamoyo, the infamous slave-market sites of the 19th Century were toured. These slave-market sites evoked so much emotion that some of the participants could not resist crying!

The highlight was the Sukuma Tribal Museum in Mwanza where the group had a chance to observe not only traditional dances but also a traditional ritual involving the slaughter of a goat and examining its intestines to make a diagnosis. In addition, the visits to the game parks--Lake Manyara, Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti--on the way to Mwanza were really special. Mwanza is a major port on Lake Victoria, source of the River Nile. It is the 2nd largest city in Tanzania, a picturesque city built on several hills overlooking Lake Victoria. One participant in the educational tour had this to say, "When I think of Africa, Tanzania will always be special for me." Another one affirmed, "The Tanzania educational tour was the most eye-opening and most enriching experience in my life."

Program Promoting Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in West Africa Report Summary

The 1996 and 1997 programs were both very successful, based on participants' survey results and observations of the ADR faculty. Other follow-up ADR activities in the participating countries will be proposed for next year. The Center for African Peace & Conflict Resolution at California State University, Sacramento (CSUS) in collaboration with The Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies at the University of Lagos, Nigeria, University of Ghana Faculty of Law, Legon- Accra, and the Universite Cheikh Anta Diop Institut des Drets de L'Homme at de la Paix in Dakar-Senegal, held a multilateral project designed to promote alternative dispute resolution mechanisms for legal professionals (lawyers, judges/magistrates and law faculty) in Nigeria, Senegal, and Ghana. The project was funded the U.S. Information Agency, Announcement Number 96-1. The goal of this project was to develop the internal capacity within West African organizations for managing, resolving, and preventing intrastate, public, and interpersonal conflicts within the legal systems/frameworks of the participating countries.

A diverse team of U.S. experts in conflict resolution trained a multi-ethnic team of 12 senior lawyers, judges and law faculty from Nigeria, Senegal and Ghana on mediation, negotiation, and arbitration techniques in summer 1996, as well as exposed them to U.S. alternative dispute resolution (ADR) systems. The program included 60 hours of intensive ADR training, visits to over 10 ADR sites in California, Washington, D.C., Maryland, Virginia, and Massachusetts; plus observations of various court and community ADR practices and projects, and special guest lectures by such U.S. ADR experts as Professor Frank Sander and Roger Fisher of Harvard Law school, Judge Nan Shker of the DC Multidoor Courthouse, among many others. Upon completion of the 4 week training and workshops in the U.S. (from mid July-August 1996), participants returned to their respective countries to implement their training, and have created many ADR

projects that address specific needs of their countries and organizations, thereby meeting the multiplier - effect goal of the project.

In summer 1997, 4 U.S. ADR experts went to the 3 West African countries to conduct additional ADR training workshops for members of the judiciary, plus ADR curriculum development and teaching sessions for university faculty members--all with the assistance of the 1996 ADR class. A total of 145 legal professionals and university faculty members participated in the 7 workshops in all the 3 countries. The U.S. experts also assisted the West African partners in establishing ADR centers and support network.

Africa Conflict Resolution Network Inaugural Meeting Report

A meeting of the Africa Conflict Resolution Network (ACRN) was held at the Hyatt Hotel in Columbus, Ohio on November 15, during the African Studies Association (ASA) 1997 Annual Conference. The meeting was convened by CAPCR, as an open invitation to scholars and agencies interested in the emerging field of conflict resolution in Africa. The inaugural meeting was attended by scholars and agency representatives from Africa, Europe and the U.S. There was a consensus that such a group as ACRN is very critical to the on-going debate and program formulations on the specific theme of conflict resolution in Africa.

Those present discussed various ideas for ACRN participation: organizing panels at ASA conferences, joint grant project and proposal development, options for establishing ACRN/institutions in Africa, and institutional linkages. CAPCR was asked to act as a Secretariat for ACRN, while members deliberate on specific course of action for 1998 and beyond.

Anyone interested in joining ACRN, or to be included in the mailing list, should contact Professor Ernest Uwazie at CAPCR or email: uwaziee@csus.edu .

Project on Interethnic/Religious Conflict Resolution in Nigeria Report Summary

The primary purpose of the project was to advance present debate about ethnic and religious conflicts in Nigeria, and to include practical ways or strategies for managing such disputes. The specific goals were to conduct a seminar between scholars and urban/community leaders and policy makers on the topic, and to provide conflict resolution training workshops for a diverse group of community/religious leaders, scholars, and criminal justice personnel in Kano (northern Nigeria) and Lagos. The project was funded by the U.S. Institute of Peace in Washington, DC, under grant No.SG-46-96.

The seminar was held in January 1997 at the University of Ibadan, with about 12 scholarly papers presented, followed by a conflict management skills training workshop in March 1997. Over 60 participants representing over 10 ethnic and religious groups in Nigeria attended the 4 day workshop on ethnic/religious conflict management in Kano and Lagos. As in the ADR project, the participants learned many useful techniques for use in their various organizations. In fact, a woman participant expressed pleasant surprise that she was appointed a member of the Election Complaints Resolution Tribunal for a northern Nigerian region during the 3rd day of the program; she explained how her experience/skills in the workshop would be put to immediate use. The seminar papers are being edited for publication in 1998.

For more information or questions or request of publications on any of the above projects, contact the Project Director, Professor Ernest Uwazie at CAPCR-CSUS.

CSUS ANNOUNCES ITS 3rd Annual Summer Institutes on Conflict Resolution:

Workshop #1: Collaborative Negotiation & Mediation

June 22-26, 1998, 8am-5pm daily (40 hrs.)

This is a basic negotiation and mediation workshop, designed for diverse populations from community-based & nongovernmental organizations (CSOs/NGOs), public & private agencies, peace & human rights groups, professional & trade unions, educational institutions, etc. It will expose and train participants on various negotiation and mediation techniques, practice-applications, conflict assessment and problem solving-skills, and how to become conflict mediators. Special emphasis will be on inter-group, interpersonal, community and public policy disputes, and youth conflict mediation. Workshop is very interactive with case role-plays, practical exercises, short lectures and limited field observations.

TRAINERS: Daniel Yamshon and Thelma Johnson

Daniel Yamshon is a highly experienced neutral in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), with both domestic and international reputation in mediation, arbitration and conciliation training and public policy mediator and trainer for over 10 years. In addition to his U.S. experience, Dan has conducted conflict resolution programs for Africans, as well as in Europe, Russia, and Latin America. Mr. Yamshon is a judge protem of the California Superior Court, serves as a consultant to numerous community and corporate ADR organizations in the U.S., and has written leading theorist and practitioner in the field of ADR and conflict resolution.

Thelma Johnson has graduate education training in Education Curriculum and Instruction and is a highly acclaimed community and youth mediator and trainer.

She has over 26 years of experience in varied management and supervisory positions in government/public agencies, especially in health and human services. A former Executive Director of the Sacramento Community Mediation, Thelma has conducted over 50 mediation and cultural sensitivity workshops in schools, communities, public and private agencies, and professional organizations. She has excellent training and practice skills in group facilitation, inter-cultural communication, team building family intervention, problem solving and conflict management. For more information, please contact: CAPCR Director and CSUS Professor Ernest E. Uwazie, Ph.D. California State University, Sacramento 6000 J Street Sacramento, CA 95819-6085, USA Telephone: (916)278-6282 Fax: (916)278-7692 E-mail: uwazieeee@csus.edu

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The CAPCR needs your support to achieve and expand its unique collaborative effort to promote peace in Africa and among African descendants throughout the world. Please contact us today for more information.

Partners receive the CAPCR newsletter, special program invitations, discounts on CAPCR services and events, and recognition in CAPCR publications and programs. Your financial support is tax deductible.

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