

REPORT

United Network Of Youth Training Conference “Peace-building in Caucasia”

*Developing a Youth Agenda for Peace in Caucasia
Training in Non violent Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation*

**November 14 - 27, 1996
Nunspeet, the Netherlands**

An overall Report of the Consultant

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Published by:

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Letters from the Yalta Conference
*Personal Impressions**

Sunday, May 19, 1996, Arrival day, Registration and Introductory evening.

Hallo,

Here I am, writing you from the sunny town of Yalta, where I attend the UNOY conference "Peace-building in Caucasia II". a pilot project of the Council of Europe under the slogan "All Equal - All Different". Yalta -a famous health resort on the Crimea- welcomed me with a gentle breeze, blowing around amber colored pine pollen, with the marvelous sea smell adding to that, the friendly faces of the organizers and the hotel staff.

All through Sunday, we expected the arrivals of participants, - a tedious occupation, but we were rewarded with an impressive evening of mutual introductions. It was a sort of reciprocal briefing about our common concerns, sufferings and hopes. The organizers and facilitators of the conference, Maria Kooijman, Nikolai Firioubine, Roswitha Jarman, Galina Sokhieva, Inna Tereschenko, Chris Hunter, Elena Hiltonen, Galina Orlova helped to create a particularly warm atmosphere and Julia de Hoogh added beauty to it.

Monday, May 20, 1996, Day 1 of the Conference/Seminar

Frankly speaking, a substantial breakfast and comfortable environment mellowed us, so the morning lecture started later than scheduled: we are only human.

It is good that we good all gather here. Dr. Paul Meerts, a well known Dutch political scientist of the Institute of International Relations "Clingendael", the Hague, the Netherlands, dealt with diplomatic negotiations as a means of resolving conflicts. A soft-spoken, unassuming and exceptionally knowledgeable expert, he began with a statement that conflict is a normal thing which is inherent in the human nature. We had been quite prepared to dose off as any normal person does during a lecture, but we were wrong. Dr. Meerts (we called him just by his first name 'Paul') asked us to give our own definitions of negotiation. Next, he divided us all into groups of nine or ten and demanded that we produce a single common definition within 10 minutes.

I wish, you could see what happened. Everybody was so eager. We argued and turned every word - and I mean it - every which way. Drowsiness was the last thing we felt. It turned out, that it was all a game and the way we came to our common wording, rather than the definition itself, that is the *process itself*, was important. Paul involved us in the negotiations, as it were. Now we have tried what he had explained. Moreover, we saw each member of the group what he or she was. Paul thoroughly analyzed each definition and the way, each group had arrived to agree upon it. He told us that if negotiations were to be successful, we should use certain techniques of conducting meetings and described the stages of the negotiation process with special emphasis on careful preparation, assessment needs and last but not least, the choice of the leader.

*It was decided among the participants that 1) different participants would volunteer to make the report, covering a part of the day; 2) the report would have the format of "Letters from Yalta".

What he said about various customary preferences was quite a revelation: Americans are keen to get results, while Russians are wary even of discussing the problem in detail.

After the scholarly and polite Dr. Paul Meerts concluded his part, Dr. Barry Goodfield, a dynamic, colorful American took over. His charm and vigor were irresistible.

The subject was "Perceptions and Rational Behavior in Conflict Situations". When the class was over, you had to break through the crowd to talk to him.

Barry is a gifted actor to Paul's state manager, even though he does things his own way. It's good that Mr. Alan Rabinovich, our interpreter, was doing such a good job.

During the breaks, we used every minute to talk to each other. We wanted to know as much as possible about the organizations the participants represented. What a mixture of the most interesting people of different ages - the youngest one is fourteen and the oldest over fifty (observer/staff members). Yet, we do not feel it. Imagine, in the evening, we invited Maria Kooijman to dance with us and she agreed without a moments hesitation.

I may write again, if I find a spare minute or two.

Take care!

Tuesday, May 21, 1996, Day 2 of the conference/seminar

Hello everyone,

The schedule was very tight and varied. In the morning, Dr. Meerts staged a very interesting game to give us an idea of negotiations among diplomats. However, it was not a diplomatic conference but an exchange in which two diplomats from different countries traded their belongings because, one of them was about to take a post in another country while the other just arrived. Both could use some of the goods belonging to his opponent. As a result, we have learnt that the win-win strategy is not only easier, but much more effective. As it seemed to be such an easy simple thing to do. Then, we had a very instructive exercise in which we tried and later analyzed various method of resolving conflict situations. We repeatedly practiced choosing the right strategy and a more appropriate style of negotiation.

After lunch, the US cavalry, headed by our darling cowboy Barry attacked. He pushed and he pulled, he huffed and puffed and in between explained a lot of complicated things in such a simple way that it seems to me that I have know them all along. We have learnt the necessity to build trust in spite of certain risks, saw a bit of non-verbal leak analysis on the video and in the dynamics of the group. It was very spectacular. I enjoyed it. I really did. More to follow. Please, excuse my attempts to be funny. All this is actually very serious and we worked real hard.

In the evening, we came together for a party in our conference hall, the "Marble Hall". We welcomed Ruslan Harabua from Abkhazia, and did some joyful group games. A few participants presented some sketches. After the break, we went on dancing in the adjacent large dining hall.

Best regards

Wednesday, May 22, 1996, Day 3 of the conference/seminar

Hallo everyone,

From now on, I'd better be businesslike and just report on what we did.

The day began with bilateral negotiations on the crisis in the Caucasus (a simulation game was carried out on the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan concerning Nagorny Karabagh). Dr. Paul Meerts suggested a possible agenda: cease-fire, peace-keeping forces (from what countries?), communication services, trade (oil?), refugees, final settlement, etc.

After the debriefing, following an extreme interesting exercise in three groups. The conference participants from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Nagorny Karabakh acted as observers to the three negotiating groups and the trainer analyzed the process. Dr. Paul Meerts noted that prior to the negotiations, the agenda should be discussed with the chairperson and during the discussions, one must ask the floor, before speaking. All members of the delegation must be given an opportunity to make their statements. Paul Meerts discussed two possible extreme positions: soft and hard. It is important to be tough when power interests are at stake, but soft and creative when it comes to people.

When Barry Goodfield took over, he spoke of general semantics, founded by Alfred Kozitski. In view of analyzing the non-verbal messages and recognizing communication leaks, he had made a video while the negotiations went on in the three groups.

Afterwards, he showed the video and analyzed the expressions on the faces present at the negotiating tables. It was both revealing and embarrassing to see that indeed, in spite what people say, non-verbally, the truth cannot be hidden.

Dr. Goodfield showed us a video message from Mr. Bill Remberton, a patriarchal figure in his late eighties from the USA, who said that war is crazy. "It is wrong to try to make people be like us. How to talk to those who are shockingly different or unlike us, that is the question." You believe in one God, we in another. Others worship many deities, and some have no religion at all. The point is, how to achieve general harmony. War is no way for that. It is necessary to identify what people have in common and respect their different views and characteristics. In that case, we will be loyal to all people on Earth. I like the way Barry Goodfield put it: "We will live in a single world, united and diverse" which is another way of saying: "All Equal - All Different", the motto of this conference.

He then taught us how to fight stress by relaxing and concentrating on some moment in our past, when we felt complete harmony, and staying there for a while, concentrating on a part of the body with the highest tension and relax it, concentrating energy. He showed the steps and commented: Nothing is stronger than gentleness. Nothing is gentler than true strength. Build up your energy and strength. At the end Aluda Goglichidze (UNOY Georgia Net) thanked the trainers: "I would like to quote M. Proust who believed that a true journey, in order to understand the world, is not a quest for new landscapes but a search for new eyes. I am happy, I got an opportunity to meet such top professionals as you two. You suggested that you not only strive to teach but also learn. I would be proud, if we gave you not only an opportunity to teach but also worth learning. Thank you for everything."

Fizzi Kassimova (Azerbaijan) took the floor: "For me, it is especially important that we can use our new knowledge both in diplomacy and in every day relationships. Great things are a continuation of small steps. The idea of identifying and emphasizing the common features of all people is good because it is true. This will bring people closer together if they also learn to respect what is different among them. The Bahai faith has a similar concept. Thank you".

In the afternoon, we visited the Livadia Palace, a former summer retreat of the last emperor of Russia and the venue of the famous Crimea Conference where Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill met in 1945 to decide the fate of Eastern European countries. We heard a fascinating story of how it all was and also admired the magnificent parks. It was a hell of a job to create these parks. Every single tree was brought on a special ship complete with soil from some far of land. Now it is called the Garden of Eden, shadowy and fragrant, but to irrigate this Garden of Eden, the gardeners sometimes have to deprive the homes in Yalta from the often scarce water.

Then, we visited the Swallow's Nest, a scaled down replica of the old German castle, perched on the tip of a seaside cliff. An old millionaire of German origin had to built it for his 16 year old gypsy mistress. Later, it stood empty and was half destroyed by an earthquake. That was when the romantic ruins got its present-day name. Now, it's been fully restored. You will see it because, we all posed for each others camera's in front of it. We returned back to the YALTA Hotel at seven o'clock.

After supper the Youth Council, which had formed itself spontaneously the previous day at the initiative of the participants met. It consisted of a representative of each republic/nation or regional group.

The participants viewed the conference as follows: the first three days were reserved for the training seminar. The last three days were for the youth themselves to workout projects, coordinate their activities and network, loosely under the banner of the Youth Agenda for Peace in Caucasia.

One of the facilitators, himself still a youth, acted as a communicator between the Youth Council' and the Facilitators' meeting, participating in both meetings, faciliating that the planning for the next day would agree with the participants agenda.

Wednesday, May 23, 1996, Day 4 of the conference/seminar

Hello everyone,

The day started with the open window in which the continuity between the previous days and the present day was secured. We were asked to remember the basic lessons learned over the past days: listening and communication skills. Ms Roswitha Jarman, the overall facilitator, asked the audience to break into pairs and answer some questions.

-What was important for you during these three days?

-At what stage are you now?

-What else do you expect/hope to achieve at this conference reasonably?

No one came here, just to get knowledge and skills. We kept asking and answering and learnt a lot more about each other. Later, we agreed, it is even more important to know how to listen and to really understand your counterpart than to be able to speak lucidity. Then Roswitha suggested a brainstorming session to decide on the best way to proceed and specify the question for which answers should be sought. Various practical projects and steps to achieve stabilization and resolve the conflicts in the region were proposed.

We split up in working groups to plan the projects on:

-rehabilitation of children;

-human rights protection;

-spiritual values, ethics and moral commitments;

-setting up a permanent secretariat of the organization for the Youth Agenda for Peace in Caucasia;

-dissemination of information, getting coverage in the media.

The morning was concluded by an explanation of the importance of continuing the work of the cross-conflict working groups, started in Nunspeet.

In the afternoon, the participants from Armenian - Azerbaijan - Nagorny Karabakh made a plenary presentation of the results from the cross-conflict meetings. (see enclosed) The representative of Nagorny Karabakh, who made the presentation, remarked that the simulation game of the previous day, had opened new perspectives for finding common grounds (although she regretted that the simulation game allowed only two parties to be involved into the negotiations and had left Nagorny Karabagh out). Her extensive explanation of the problems in Nagorny Karabagh were very informative and instructive to all participants.

In the evening, a documentary video was shown on Chechnya, followed by a heated discussion between the participants and two visiting members of the Chechen Diaspora from Moscow and St. Petersburg. The discussion was followed by showing a video recording of two of our youngest participants from Grozny, young dancers, who read a poem on the deportation of the Caucasian peoples during the Stalin regime in 1944, involving several million people. Half of them did not survive the cattle-like transportation into Central Asia. Several participants were silently weeping, hiding their grief and indignation. After these video's the UNOY video on the first Caucasian Youth Peace-builders conference in Nunspeet, the Netherlands (14-27 November, 1994) was shown and was very much appreciated.

With so many beautiful people gathered together, so many pressing issues at stake, so many chances for networking, socializing, sharing, friendship- and trust-building as well as opportunities for dancing, and with such beautiful climate and surroundings to relax

and enjoy in and around the Yalta Hotel, it was impossible to maintain a strict discipline of going to sleep in time. The next morning we were confronted with the reality of the conference program starting at nine and our commitments to be in time, a commitment kept by only a small number of us.

It was for this reason, that the program coordinator agreed to begin the afternoon sessions as of 23th onwards from 4.30 p.m till 7pm. in order to give participants a chance to either rest or enjoy a long interval between the morning and afternoon sessions.

Friday, May 24, 1996. Day 5 of the conference/seminar

Hello everyone,

We started with summing up yesterday's work. Then the visiting representatives of the Chechen Diaspora from Moscow and St.Petersburg were give the floor. They thanked the conference organizers and expressed their hopes that the participants will prove an effective force in ending the war in Chechnya. They left the same morning.

Afterwards, the cross-conflict groups resumed their deliberations in small working groups and eventually decided to propose the below proposals.

The cross-conflict group format not being applicable to the Chechen case, the Chechen group together with the Russian anti-war groups wanted to discuss "how to stop the war" and discussed various projects (see below). The other participants proposed to work on their projects and prepared for the presentation of their projects in the concluding sessions on the 25th. The whole morning, participants worked in small groups.

The afternoon sessions resumed at 4.30 p.m. at the explicit requests of the participants, who wanted to enjoy a little of the daylight at the beach or swimming pool or beautiful green surroundings. The afternoon continued the work of the morning, with plenary progress reports given before the closing of the session by the various working groups.

In the evening a video presentation was shown of the All Equal-All Different European Youth Campaign against racism, xenophobia, anti-semitism and intolerance. Because, the video was in English and due to the fact that the participants were so deeply involved in the finalizing of their own projects, the video did not arouse much interest among the participants.

Saturday, 25 May, 1996, 6th and last day of the conference

Note of the editor

The Letters, prepared by several reporters of this day are not yet translated into English. Undersigned will give a short resume of the Letters.

While the participants were dropping in, a video on the All Equal - All Different European Youth Campaign was shown to focus the attention to the last day of the conference and make the circle round: A pilot project of the Council of Europe.

A hectic beginning, participants still involved in finalizing, editing, amending their projects to be presented at the concluding plenary.

After the Open Window, a short evaluation was held, together with identifying the unfinished businesses. Time was reserved for finalizing the projects to be presented at the final plenary session. It was mentioned that in this conference, (the gender balance being well observed) the women played a unique, and very active role.

The following projects were presented at the concluding plenary to be part of a loose network under the name, "Agenda/Program for Peace in Caucasia":

Joint peace-building actions of the cross conflict Working groups

- Armenia, Azerbaijan, Nagorno Karabakh
- Ingushetia-Ossetia
- Georgia-Abkhazia-South.Ossetia

Projects of the Working Groups:

- Rehabilitation of Children Center Rehabilitation of Children Working group
- Human Rights Center, Human Right Center Working group
- "Care for Peace Together" Georgian Working group
- "Democracy in Action" Georgian Working group
- "UN Information Center" Georgian Working group
- Secretariat of the Council of participants, Secretariat Working group
- Proposal for a "Educational Program", Education Working group
- Proposed "Scientific / practical conference for young Caucasian Scientist"
Conference Working group

"How to stop the War in Chechnya" Working group

1. Appeals:

- Appeal to the Youth of the Caucasus
- Appeal to the International Community, (the United Nations, The Council of Europe, European Union, Governments and Parliaments)
- Appeal to the President of the Russian Federation, Mr.Yeltsin
- To ask Russian and all international organizations/movements/groups to join forces in stopping the war in Chechnya. "Anti-war" Working group:

2. Projects:

- To organize a conference in the near future in Chechnya for Caucasian youth
- To create a children's NGO in Chechnya.

Different groups drafting letters:

- Letter to the people of Chechnya.

- Appeal to the Newspapers of the Caucasus.
- An appeal to Mr. Leonid Kuchma, President of the Republic of the Ukraine.

Other suggestions were presented:

- The setting up of a young Caucasian women's Network for Peace.
- Setting up an electronic Network in the Caucasus to support the implementation of the Agenda/Program for Peace in Caucasia.

It was agreed, that during the concluding plenary sessions, the projects would be presented by the respective groups who take responsibility for their projects. The projects would not be presented for "adoption" but individual groups would be responsible for their own projects and receive the support from the plenary for their project, unless anybody would have strong reasons to object against the proposals. Objections could lead to rephrasing or withdrawal of the proposal. All project proposals were passed, several requiring rephrasing or amendments but all with positive appreciation.

The Plenary project presentations took up almost the whole afternoon session. The positive atmosphere was mounting. Julia had beautified the conference hall. In the middle were candles, put in the shape of a lotus flower. Around it, Roswitha had put sheets of colored paper and colored pencils for writing messages of appreciation for one another. While the conference proceedings came to a close, the participants, wrote their messages. The candles were lit. The group formed a circle to unite in a silent moment of sacred union, peace and true reality. Participants and staff members expressed their appreciation and gratefulness. The conference had changed our lives! It reconciled what seemed unreconcilable....

The evening was reserved for a good-bye party....

The next morning, very early, the first participants left, and others followed the same or the next day. Many had to travel 24, 48 or longer hours by trains and buses. Others had to travel over Moscow in order to reach the trans-Caucasus by air. Many returned to their refugee shelter/home, or back into the scenes of war... Yet, they went 'home', convinced and committed, strengthened with hope, knowledge, skills, and so many wonderful experiences, having made so many friends and companions on the road to "Peace in Caucasia". The slogan "All Equal - All Different" is a powerful one, also in the Caucasus!

1. Armenia-Nagorny Karabakh-Azerbaijan cross-conflict working group

RESOLUTION

Resolution of the Azerbaijan, Armenian, Nagorny Karabakh cross-conflict group

The Cross-conflict group "Azerbaijan, Armenian and Nagorny Karabakh" was set up at the conference: "Peace-building in Caucasia" [in Nunspeet, the Netherlands, 14-29 of November, 1994]. In the course of it, the group collated the cartography of the conflict, reflecting the views of each side. Regrettably, the participants of that conference failed to analyze the root causes of the conflict for lack of trust and mutual understanding between all the parties of the conflict. The negotiation formula, suggested at the conference "Peace-building II, has provided an opportunity to resume the discussion of the problem.

However, in view of the current favorable conditions, namely effective cease-fire, it would be advisable to look into the problem in real terms and to try to find answers to a number of questions without which a political way out of an overall solution to the Karabakh problem is hardly feasible.

Bearing in mind the above facts and mindful of the interests of the representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Nagorny Karabakh in continuing the dialogue, we request the participants in the conference Peace-building in Caucasia II, to agree to include an item on the meeting of the cross-conflict working group of the Youth Agenda For Peace in the Caucasus and ask the United Nations Of Youth Foundation and the Institute of International Relations "Clingendael" [in the Netherlands] to act as mediators.

For the participants:

N.Ismailova (Azerbaijan)
A.Gasanov (Azerbaijan)
S.Djangiryan (Nagorny Karabakh)
A.Akopyan (Nagorny Karabakh)
K.Martirosyan (Armenia)
A.Aroutunyan (Armenia)

Letter to:
Dr. Paul Meerts
Dr. Barry Goodfield
Institute of International Relations, "Clingendael"
The Hague,
The Netherlands

Dear Sirs,

First of all, I want to thank you for the interesting training you provided during the past three days. You introduced us to various effective non-violent methods of resolving conflicts and achieving reconciliation which I find very useful. In this connection, it would perhaps be appropriate to make some remarks concerning the simulation experience. We appreciate your interest in the Karabakh problem and the attempt to help find a solution. Even though it is just a lesson in class, it could (and perhaps should) be a relevant lesson. This is why we could not understand why the simulated situation did not relate to reality. The current high level negotiations within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group are held between the three parties to the conflict: the Nagorny Karabakh Republic, Azerbaijan and Armenia. So, two delegations (one excluding a representative of Karabakh) is too academic.

I believe that we, representatives of NGO's should consider many matters in a more progressive, realistic and forward looking manner than is done at the governmental level. I would therefore, dare recommend that in the future, when preparing such exercises, you might as well try to reflect the actual situation and thus identify realistic common grounds.

We for our part, are ready to cooperate and provide objective information on our problem

Yours sincerely,

Svetlana Djangiryan
Nagorny Karabakh representative

Project Azerbaijan, Armenian, Nagorny Karabakh Cross-Conflict group

(Youth cross conflict working group meeting)

Aims and tasks:

- a) promoting discussions on the role the youth has to play in the settlement of conflicts;
- b) strengthening the existing links and broadening cooperation between NGO's;
- c) using the present status quo to build trust between the sides.

Proposed date:

Autumn 1996

Venue:

Alternative venues: a) neutral zone or b) on the territory of one of the three sides.

Implementation:

- 1) Hold a meeting of the youth of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Nagorny Karabakh;
- 2) Organize an exhibition of artistic work of refugee children from Nagorny Karabakh and Azerbaijan;
- 3) Exchange information;
- 4) Hold training seminars to develop negotiation skills for NGO staff members.

North.Ossetia-Ingushetia Cross Conflict working groups

(Youth cross conflict working group meeting)

Proposed projects:

1. To form groups of young people consisting of representatives of both sides, living on disputed territories, to visit refugee communities whose return to their home land is hindered.
2. To organize seminars on methods of non-violent conflict resolution for students, law enforcement officers and senior citizens.
3. To organize regular joint tours to Ossetia and Ingushetia.
4. To continue contacts between participants in order to coordinate the activities of the representatives of both sides who attended the conference.

Abkazian - Georgian - S.Ossetian Cross-conflict working group

Proposed cross conflict joint meeting on the Inguri river on the border Georgia/ Abkazia.
Paper yet to be translated.

The Georgian Working Group

Project proposed by the Georgian UNOY Net: "Care for Peace Together"

Due to the presence of only one Abkazian delegate, (the other three invitees where refused at the border crossing with Russia) it was difficult to conduct cross conflict meetings between the Abkazian and Georgian delegates.

Project: "Caring for Peace Together"

It envisages creating a conflictology network in the countries of the Caucasus and Middle East with Headquarters in Tblisi (Georgia) and offices in various cities of the two regions.

Project holder

UNOY Net Georgia

Aims:

To create a mechanism for collecting, analyzing and disseminating information about the developments in troubled spots of the Caucasus and the Middle East; prepare recommendations and advice in order to prevent potential existing conflicts by non-violent methods. Another purpose is to facilitate dissemination of knowledge about methods and non-violent ways of conflict resolution, thus promoting the win-win principle, peaceful co-existence and cooperation.

Description

The project includes providing equipment and staff for the Headquarters and regional offices. The Network shall form an advisory council of leading experts, political scientists, conflict analysts, moderators and psychologists. They will help analyze the available information and give recommendations and also assist in the holding of training seminars for the staff, etc.

Expected Results

Implementation of the project will facilitate the shaping a system of information exchange between countries of the two regions, integration of peace-building processes in multi-cultural regions, involving youth in these processes and increasing their role as decision making at the global level.

Duration

12 months.

Implementation

1. Setting up local offices.
2. Installing electronic communication network.
3. Holding seminars in the field for conflict mediators, psychologists and political scientists.
4. Exchanging information throughout the network.
5. Monitoring the areas covered by the project.
6. Issuing a regular Newsletter.

II Project name: "Democracy in Action"

Project holder

UNOY Net Georgia.

Aims

- Integration of the Caucasian youth into the global community.
- Study of International law.
- Obtaining information and knowledge about the methodology of the work of the UN.
- Knowing the principles of cooperation and partnership.

Description

The project expects to organize Model UN Assemblies and UN Social and Economic Councils for representatives of different Caucasian Regions.

The UNOY Net Georgia will develop the instructions and materials for these Model UN and prepare the representatives from different regions of the Caucasus to participate in this process.

On every step of this process, the various different questions will be considered by all the representatives of the Caucasian regions.

These Model UN's will be held three times a year for the Caucasus.

Implementation

1. Define selection criterias and recruit and select participants from different parts of the Caucasus.
2. Prepare the participants for participating in these Model UN meetings.
3. The organizing of the Model UN itself.

Project III: UN Information Center

Project Holder

UNOY Net Georgia

Background:

After the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the rupture of the established links and the absence of new ones, which prevents the emerging new societies from shedding old stereotypes and forming new values. This slows down their integration into the international community. Lack of objective and timely information is one source of conflict in the post-Soviet republics. The Caucasus became one of the most acute scenes of multiple military conflicts of modern days. In view of the present day situation, we believe that it is indispensable to have an effective center for disseminating information, statistical data and international instruments. This center must promote the UN philosophy, vision, values and methodologies as well as provide for a feedback to and render support for the UN activities in the region.

Aims

Distribution of Books, printed materials, audio and video materials about the problems in Caucasus by electronic mail, and local representatives of the IC.

Description

The Department of Public information of the UN will play a role of the information donor. The materials will be provided by the UN Office in new York. It is important to state here that part of the information will be distributed, free of charge. The main office will be situated in Tblisi, Georgia.

Expected Results

The realization of this project will facilitate not only the development of the scientific activity and the learning process, but also the peace-building process.

Implementation

1. Opening of the offices in the local places.
2. Recruiting and selection of personnel for the main office and for the regional offices.
3. Taking the information from the UN Office (NY).
4. Creating a common information Net. Creation of common information network.
-setting up the technical equipment and involving each representation into the net.
-organizing seminars for technical workers (operators) in order to gain knowledge how to work with the information network.
5. Distribution of materials by e-mail and mail from the center to all offices.
6. Distribution of materials from the regional offices among the people of the Caucasus.

Human Rights working group

Project:

Center for Human Rights Protection.

Project Holder:

Center for Human Rights Protection, Slepsovskaya, on the border with Chechnya.

Aims

-Observance of the UN Declaration of Human Rights, and other pacts, civil and political rights and international conventions.

-Collection of facts about the violation of human rights in the region.

-Cooperation with the Peace-building Center in Moscow, which will secure the channeling of the collected information to international governmental and non-governmental human rights organizations.

-Preparation and spreading of the recommendations and analytic materials concerning the questions about the guarantee of human rights.

Set up a data bank of experts from international human rights organizations in order to teach the representativeness of the region.

-Educational programs for the local people to inform them about their basic human rights and inform them about fundamental laws and the international declarations and conventions.

The structure

In every region of the Caucasus will be stationed representatives of the Human Rights Center who will collect the facts about the violation of human rights (photo and video recordings, appeals, applications and other material). All these facts will be forwarded to the Peace-building Center in Moscow. In its turn, the Peace-building Center will pass these materials on to appropriate international Governmental and non-Governmental institutions, with a request to influence the governments of the respective countries or republics where these violences occur. The Peace-building Center will keep every regional representative informed of any progress. The regional representatives will exchange the information among themselves.

The implementation

1. Set up the structure of local representatives
2. Search for personnel
 - for the central representative office
 - for regional representative offices
3. Creation of a common information e-mail Network
 - setting up technical equipment and involving every representative on the network
 - organizing a seminar for training people the use of electronic mail
 - cooperation with UNOY and the Peace-building Center in Moscow.

Rehabilitation of Children Working group

Project:

Rehabilitation Center for children, injured or traumatized, as a result of the war in Chechnya.

Questions

1. Are there organizations oriented towards the rehabilitation's of children who suffered injuries or trauma's during the Chechen conflict?
2. If they exist, in what respects are they different or similar to the present project?
3. What are their shortcomings and what are the most effective ways to achieve the aims of the proposed new organization?
4. What distinctive features should this organization have in view of its narrow specialization?

Purpose

Medical and psychological rehabilitation of children from Chechnya, aged 7 to 17 years.

Measures

- Choosing a location away from the Republic. One option: "Noviye Gorki" health resort, 37 ulitsa Mira, Norye Gorki, Moscow Region.
- Funding by various donor organizations, establishing an independent fund named: "Rehabilitation of Children from Chechnya".
- Selection of professional psychologists.
- Use of the most advanced programs of treatment and rehabilitation.
- Establishing criteria's for selecting children to be treated: graveness of the injury (diagnosis); time period for clinical recovery; psychological and emotional status of the child.
- Time limits: 10 days, 15 days, 20 days, over 20 days if indicated.
- Means of bringing the injured children from the conflict zones: transportation:
 - a) distributing to specialists the application forms to admit children for rehabilitation, including information on the available services;
 - b) submit the filled out application forms (to be done by specialist) to the coordinating group, where it must be registered, evaluated and put on the waiting list;
 - c) Calculate the expenses involved, depending on the length of stay;
 - d) Compute the transport cost;
 - e) Transfer money to the Medical Center's account;
 - f) Arrange the transportation of a child to the Center.

Setting up a coordinating group in Chechnya.

Structure:

Chairperson, Accountant, Selection Commission, headed by specialists,

Functions:

Depositing money, Coordination of the Rehabilitation Center, Recruiting specialists, Evaluation of requests received, Contacts with similar organizations.

Starting date

September 1. 1996.

Number of Patients:

Minimal 60 for simultaneous treatment.

Note

It is advisable to consider the possibility of one parent accompanying a child under 12 or in case the injuries is (are) especially debilitating.

Working group "Secretariat of the Council of participants"

For the successful...

Working group on "Moral Education"

1. Creation of a constantly acting commission which will realize the connection with the secretariat.
2. To prepare the material about the definition

Proposal for the holding of a scientific /practical conference

The aims:

- Uniting the efforts of young scientists on the way to stabilization and peaceful developments in the Caucasus.
- Restoring and strengthening communication links between the scientists in the region.
- Development of practical recommendations about methods and strategies of non-violent conflict resolution and identifying potential conflicts in the Caucasus.

Target group

Young scienti from various disciplines.

Conference sections

- Economic: to consider the economic causes and consequences of conflicts.
- Ecological: to consider the ecological consequences of conflicts in the Caucasus.
- Social political and legal: to consider the need for skills and knowlegde to enable the transition of the ex-socialist societies into democracy.
- Historical: to evaluate the situation in the Caucasus and give practical recommendations, taking into account the national/cultural features and historic experiences of the past.

Preliminay Work

- Identify possible venues and dates for the conference.
- Forming an organizing committee with the distribution of functions.

Organizing Committee

- The preparation of information letteres which will be sent to scientific centers and institutes.
- Organizing the logistics of the conference (accomodation, meals, transportation, etc.)
- Publishing of the theses of the conference and the preparation of the brochures, covering the results of the conference proceedings and other relevant information.

Working group: "How to stop the War in Chechnya"

1. To prepare appeals to:
 - the international communities;
 - the government of the Russian Federation;
 - anti-war organizations and movements;
 - the mass media.
2. To organize a conference in the near future in Chechnya for Caucasian youth in order to let them see the results of the war in Chechnya.
3. To create a children's NGO in Chechnya.
4. To ask all the international organizations/movements/groups to support the idea of stopping the war in Chechnya.

Various appeals were composed, amended and presented at the plenary sessions for approval to be sent to the above mentioned.

Conference; Peace to Chechnya, Peace to Caucasus, Peace to the World

Aims

Organizing the conference: "Peace to Chechnya, Peace to Caucasus, Peace to the World" right in the heart of the conflict in order to show the world community the unity among youth and its commitment to do its utmost for creating peace in the region.

Tasks

1. To provide an opportunity for the participants of the conference to see the reality with their own eyes.
2. To meet with representatives of the cross-conflict sides.
3. To explore ways of peaceful conflict resolution.
4. To express solidarity with the Chechen people in their tragedy.

25 May, 1996

Appeal to President Yeltsin, the President of the Russian Federation

Dear Mister President,

We the participants of the UNOY Peace-building conference/seminar "Peace-building in Caucasia II", a pilot project of the Council of Europe of the European Youth Campaign against racism, xenophobia, antisemitism and intolerance, Yalta, 19-26 May, 1996, representatives of youth organizations from Abkazia, Armenia, Azerbaijan,, Dagestan, Georgia, Ingushetia, Kabardino Balkarya, Krasnodarky Kray, Nagorny Karabakh, North Ossetia, South Ossetia, Russia, Stavropolsky Kray and the Ukraine appeal to you:

1. To adopt all the necessary measures in order to stop completely all military actions in Chechnya.
2. To begin immediately, without any preliminary prior conditions, personal negotiations with the representatives of the Chechen resistance.
3. To give to the Chechen people an opportunity by means of a referendum, to decide the question about the status of their Republic, the Russian army having withdrawn.

Mr. President it is your duty to stop immediately the mass murdering of the Chechen people; to control the escalation of robberies, violence and terror, to stop the violations of the rights of the Caucasian peoples on the Russian territory.

Only transforming the principle of non-violence into a national policy could bring peace to Russia and the Caucasus.

Appeal to the International Community, (the United Nations, The Council of Europe, European Union, Governments and Parliaments)

We the participants of the UNOY Peace-building conference/seminar "Peace-building in Caucasia II", a pilot project of the Council of Europe of the European Youth Campaign against racism, xenophobia, antisemitism and intolerance, Yalta, 19-26 May, 1996, representatives of youth organizations from Abkazia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Chechnya, Dagestan, Georgia, Ingushetia, Kabardino Balkarya, Krasnodarky Kray, Nagorny Karabakh, North Ossetia, South Ossetia, Russia, Stavropolsky Kray and the Ukraine

- have discussed the problems of the Caucasus,
- have listened to the representatives of this region,
- made a conclusion to unite all the efforts for creating stability and peace among the people of the Caucasus and the countries surrounding it.

Today, the national, territorial and economic contradictions exaggerated by radicals threaten our lands through hunger, military, national and religious conflicts.

Secondly, the cruel war, which the President and the Government of Russia begun in order to suppress the will of the Chechen people, striving for self-determination is going on. Tens of thousands of citizens have already died in this war. Russia lost thousands of sons. Chechnya is destroyed and plundered by the federal armed forces. A large part of the population, having lost it's homes, is wandering in the neighboring republics. The treat of a renewal of a military conflicts in other parts of the Caucasus already several times surfaced.

We, the people of the Caucasus, are astonished at the indifference of the Parliaments and Governments of the civilized countries, looking on at the disasters befalling our region.

We appeal to you to remind you that here, in the Caucasus, live those people who receive no protection from the international declarations, pacts and agreements of human rights. It is those people whose culture and history have deep roots, and whose future will influence not only the situation in the Caucasus, but also that of Asia and Europe.

We hope that the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the governments of Western countries finally will find the forces and will resolve to organize the control of peace-building measures in the Caucasus.

We need your assistance and answers on these most important questions:

1. Will you adopt measures, necessary to definitely stopping all war actions?
2. Will you secure measures for observing the human rights situation in the Caucasus
3. Will you immediately begin negotiations without any preliminary conditions?

Yalta, 25 May, 1996

Anti-war working group

Appeal to the Russian and International NGO's and movements

We, the participants of the UNOY Peace-building conference/seminar "Peace-building in Caucasia II", a pilot project of the Council of Europe of the European Youth Campaign against racism, xenophobia, antisemitism and intolerance, Yalta, 19-26 May, 1996, dictated by the sufferings of and compassion towards the Chechen peoples make the below appeal.

Already, one and a half year ago, the Russian Federation started the criminal and cruel war which is going on against the will and interest of all the citizens of Russia.

Critically appraising the results of our own anti-war efforts, we recognize that we have not succeeded in organizing a powerful anti-war movement which will be able to make the leaders of Russia and the Federal power structures make an end to the war.

Of course, this is not to deny the importance of the numerous anti-war actions, statements and appeals, which promoted [among the Russian people] a disapproving attitude of the Russian population towards the Chechen war, as has been proven many times by public opinion polls.

Today, we the participants of the UNOY Peace-building conference/seminar "Peace-building in Caucasia II", suggest a number of steps which are aimed to raise the effectiveness of anti-war actions and strengthen pressure on the power of the R.F. in order to stop the war as soon as possible.

We observe the necessity of uniting the efforts of anti-war forces and movements in spite of their different political orientations.

Hence, we suggest:

1. Try to reach an agreement with the Chechen side about the main principles of strategy for stopping the war and creating a just and strong peace in Chechnya. Such strategy could unite anti-war movements around precise alternatives and could reveal all the falsehood of the official governmental statements which state that no alternatives exist. Such strategy would make our position more clear for the population. At least, this point could become a subject for discussions during the pre-election campaigns; its points should have a chance to be on the program of the candidate to the presidential post.
2. We believe that we should use this moment of the pre-elections in Russia for promoting active discussions on the ending of the Chechen conflict and for presenting our position to the leaders of the R.F.
Hence, we declare, on behalf of the organizations, acting in the R.F. the impossibility to support during the election campaigns, the forces which are guilty of starting the war or justifying its continuation.

We suggest to seek any opportunity during our meetings with candidates or with their representatives to express our views, demanding the stopping of the war.

We also offer to develop an active and constructive dialogue with the political forces which have not yet taken a definite stand in regard the Chechen issue, in order to convince them of the truth of the anti-war position.

The question about Chechnya has become the most important question of the pre-election campaign.

3. We believe, there should be paid more attention to the information of the anti-war movements of Russia and other countries. Its information should become available to the Chechen people.

Today, the horrors of the war felt by the Chechen people, are aggravated by the increased feelings of isolation, desperation and frustration; their tragedy not being understood by the people of other regions and countries.

The central TV of the R.F. (Channel 1 & 2) in their broadcasts programs on Chechnya, present often unobjective and falsified information. These two channels are the only ones which can be received in Chechnya. Other means of mass media which reflect more objectively the events in Chechnya (NTV, TV6, radio stations, "Echo of Moscow" and other newspapers, etc.) are not within the reach of the citizens of Chechnya.

Hence, we urge, by joint efforts, to publish information bulletins for the distribution in the Chechen Republic, which would inform the people of the anti-war movements in Russia and abroad.

4. Noting as a whole the insufficient effectiveness of organizing anti-war actions, we suggest to discuss the possibility of organizing the actions of civil disobedience, declaring the "war against war". in order to show the authorities engaged in criminal policies, the real resistance of the public.
5. We request that our appeals to stop the war in Chechnya should be supported by all the people, who participated in the European Youth Campaign against racism, xenophobia, antisemitism and intolerance of the Council of Europe.

Appeal to the Newspapers of the Caucasus

We, the representatives of the United Nations Of Youth and the participants of the Conference "Peace-building in Caucasia II" which is in progress in Yalta, Ukraine, address you as the editor of a newspaper, uniting people of the multinational Caucasus. We request you to reserve for the implementation of the work of this conference (the Youth Agenda for Peace in Caucasia) a space in your newspaper for a regular updating of our peace-building efforts in the Caucasus.

The aim of our organization is providing training to youth in knowledge and skills in the art of non-violent conflict resolution and reconciliation and its practical application.

The conference is part of a peace-building program of the UNOY Foundation, which has been developed to implement the decisions of young peace-builders from the troubled spots all over the world, held at the Peace Palace, the Hague, the Netherlands, 1993. It is also an efforts to further elaborate the peace-building initiatives of more than 40 representatives of all republics and territories of the Caucasus who attended the first Conference "Peace-building in Caucasia" (Nunspeet, the Netherlands, 14-27 Nov., 1994).

The Council of Europe has chosen the conference "Peace-building in Caucasia II" as a pilot project of the European Youth Campaign against racism, xenophobia, anti-semitism and intolerance, called "All Equal-All Different". We add to this letter the report about the work of these conferences.

We kindly ask you to consider our request favorably.

Yours sincerely,

The participants of the conference "Peace-building in Caucasia II"
Yalta, 25 May, 1996

Appeal to the Youth of the Caucasus

We the participants of the UNOY Peace-building conference/seminar "Peace-building in Caucasia II", a pilot project of the Council of Europe of the European Youth Campaign against racism, xenophobia, antisemitism and intolerance, Yalta, 19-26 May, 1996, representatives of youth organizations from Abkazia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Chechnya, Dagestan, Georgia, Ingushetia, Kabardino Balkarya, Krasnodarky Kray, Nagorny Karabakh, North Ossetia, South Ossetia, Russia, Stavropolsky Kray and the Ukraine discussed the problems of creating stability in the region and made the following conclusions:

Approaching the end of the twentieth century, the politicians of our respective countries endow us with a legacy of wars, national inequality, territorial conflicts economic destabilization and disunited peoples. And with this heritage, we young people, will enter into the new millennium of human history. Each day of our non-participation in the creation of the future will be fraught for us tomorrow with new problems.

Therefore, we consider it necessary to extend our hands to each other, above political ambitions, wars and prejudices, and agree that it is only we, who can and must determine our own future. For that, it is necessary to continue the dialogue, which we started at an even higher level. Hence, we suggest to the youth of the Republics of the Caucasus to appeal to their Governments and Presidents to assist in organizing a Youth Peace Forum.

Yalta, 25 May, 1996

To the people of Chechnya

We the participants of the UNOY Peace-building conference/seminar "Peace-building in Caucasia II", a pilot project of the Council of Europe of the European Youth Campaign against racism, xenophobia, antisemitism and intolerance, Yalta, 19-26 May, 1996, representatives of youth organizations from Abkazia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Chechnya, Dagestan, Georgia, Ingushetia, Kabardino Balkarya, Krasnodarky Kray, Nagorny Karabakh, North Ossetia, South Ossetia, Russia, Stavropolsky Kray and the Ukraine and representatives of foreign countries learned at first hand of the incredible sufferings from the participants of Chechnya.

We wish to express our heart felt solidarity with those who carry on their shoulders the every day sufferings caused by the war.

We condemn violence. We are deeply shocked by the continued senseless losses of so many lives. We affirm:

- the right for life as the first right for every one living on this Earth;
- the right of every one to have guarantees and protection from unlawful arrests and torture;
- the right of free movement;
- the right of property;
- the right of guaranteed security for one's families and one's children.

Your tragic experiences is a very hard and painful lesson for everybody in our so restless instable times; lessons which teach us the necessity for building equal rights and just relationships among and between people.

We support your striving for peace and freedom.

We confirm your right for self-determination and the right for survival as a free national minority.

We pray that you will succeed in overcoming this most tragic passage in your life and the history of the Chechnen people.

We express our determination, together with you, to participate in the process of the building up of a peaceful and happy future in the Caucasus.

Yalta, 25 may, 1996

Working Group Drafting an appeal to Mr. Leonid Kuchma, President of the Republic of the Ukraine.

Yalta, 25 May, 1996

Dear Mister President,

On the hospitable soil of the Ukraine, the town of Yalta has just hosted the conference "Peace-building in Caucasia II" with the permission of the Ukrainian authorities. During the conference, participants who represent youth organizations of the Caucasus, Russia and the Ukraine and the attending experts of human rights activists from foreign countries expressed grave concern over the tensions, prevailing in the Caucasus. They are determined to continue and develop peace making initiatives at the local and regional levels.

There is no doubt, however, that efforts of the public are insufficient to solve these grave problems. This is why we ask you to consider the possibility for the Ukraine to take initiative in organizing a peace-making meeting of Heads of State of the seven leading industrial developed countries and of the Caucasus, the Ukraine and Russia on the Crimea.

The meeting could consider the declaring the Caucasus a zone of Peace and also draw up a program of development and economic integration of the participating states. We are sending you herewith the documents of our conference.

Hoping that peace will prevail.

Yours respectfully.

Mr Rouslan Harabua, Abkazian delegate, student of the Diplomatic Academy in Moscow, specializing in the Conflicts in Caucasia. Mr Harabua is himself is victim of war, having lost both his legs and his two brothers at the battle field in the military conflict between Abkazia and Georgia.

"I am already for the third time, taking part in the cross conflict conferences, organized by the UNOY. That is why, I would like especially to thank the organizers of this conference: Ms M. Kooijman, and Mr N. Firioubine who have managed to wind up the peace-machine, and to thank the people who with their whole heart want peace and tranquillity for the people of the Caucasus and try to do their best. Thanks to Dr Paul Meerts and Dr B.Goodfield. Thank you for the opportunity given to all the representatives of the Caucasus to meet and to communicate."

Mr. Oleg Kousov, correspondent of the regional socio-political newspaper "Severny Kavkaz" (Northern Caucasus) 20-26, 40 Let Pobedy st. 362048, Vladikavkaz, Republic of Northern Ossetia-Alania, when asked about his opinion of the conference, made below comment:

"I have known all along that restoration of Peace in the Caucasus requires negotiations and informal contacts between the parties of the conflicts. During the Peace-building in Caucasia II conference, I learnt how we can have a frank exchange of views and achieve positive results at the negotiations in a faster and more effective way.

It is my impression that many of the participants went to Yalta to "fight", that is to defend the interest of their respective sides. But in the course of the seminars, simulation exercises and personal contacts they came to understand each other and the fact that they have the same goal: achieve peace and mutually beneficial development. I am certain that they will consciously or unconsciously exert a strong influence in this direction on their peers at home. Moreover, if they get consciously involved in peace-building in any form, they will be able to get good results. In my opinion, the organizers of the conference scored a major success: they assured the participants that peaceful communication between the peoples of Caucasia are both beneficial and inevitable, and they taught them to do it efficiently.