

III. SESSIONS SUPPORTED IN PART BY THIS GRANT

III A. Description of the Sessions.

PLENARY 3. *Preventing Conflict.* A Symposium on "Preventive Diplomacy and Conflict Mediation in Africa", moderated by Edward Broadbent, President of the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development, with the participation of Gerald Cossette and Edward Willer from the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, Ben Lobulu, President of the Human Rights Monitoring Group in Tanzania, Seri Dedy from Côte d'Ivoire.

DEBATE 2. *Genocide and Justice.* The aftermath of the Rwandan crisis and the problem of genocide and justice will be explored in a panel on "(Re)Viewing Conflict: Genocide and Justice in Africa", moderated by Professor Frank Chalk and Rose Ndayahoze, Vues d'Afrique, with the participation of Donald Woods, Payam Akhavan, Legal Advisor to the UN Tribunal on Genocide, Professor Howard Adelman, Michael J. Chesson from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and François Xavier Nsanzuwera, formerly with the Rwandan Ministry of Justice.

III B. Résumé of Sessions directly supported by DEFAIT:

It would be impossible to summarize the different views expressed by participants, and, in the context of conference presentations and exchanges, no attempt can be made to articulate a single conclusion.

Initiating the session on Preventive Diplomacy and Conflict Mediation in Africa, Edward Broadbent affirmed the importance of an active international presence in situations of potential crisis, and developed some of the work pursued by the International Centre for Human Rights in preventive diplomacy. The case for developing a formal policy of preventive diplomacy, and the record of Canadian support for international initiatives, especially regarding the OAU's creation of a program for conflict prevention, was presented by G. Cossette and E. Willer of Foreign Affairs. [The most pointed case against such a policy was presented by M. Jean-H. Guilmette, now of IDRC, in the session on Canadian Policy towards Africa.] From the African perspective, Ben Lobulu, a human rights lawyer from Tanzania, presented an articulate case for a more assertive and proactive policy towards conflict in Africa, Seri Dedy, from Côte d'Ivoire, discussing the experience of conflict and the human need to participate in processes of mediation, resolution and reconciliation.

The session on Genocide in Africa discussed the situation in Rwanda and Burundi in some depth, emphasizing the need to achieve justice as the basis for reconciliation. Donald Wood, a journalist turned government critic in South Africa, presented an optimistic visage regarding the possibilities of racial and ethnic reconciliation, based on the South African experience. Howard Adelman analyzed the failure of the international community to act to prevent the Rwandan genocide, despite the early knowledge it had regarding the ensuing conflict. Payam Akhavan addressed the question of the role the United Nations now plays through the UN Tribunal on Genocide, and developed how important it is to pursue a legally transparent process, based on evidence, if the process is to retain credibility. Michael Chesson presented the position of the Department of Foreign Affairs on the Rwanda and Burundi situations. And François Nsanzuwera presented problems in achieving rapid legal recourse in present-day Rwanda, and the possibilities for reconciliation following the genocide. The session concluded with comparative reflections on the experience of genocide, and an appeal to link prevention with justice, reconciliation with truth.