

problems. This network could produce development initiatives designed to lessen social problems. It could also serve as a vehicle for frank and open dialogue between donors and their partners.

5.4 Some thoughts on a technique for demilitarization

Renewal of ODA objectives demands that we reflect on subjects which have been unexplored until recently. In particular, it is important to consider the army's mission in a nascent democracy with a developing economy. This important process will serve as the basis for finding concrete actions which can serve to further demobilization or orderly demilitarization in many problem cases.

Revolutionary movements and dictatorships alike have helped swell the ranks of armed forces and individuals, which perform no productive role in society. How can this state of affairs be remedied? How can essentially unproductive citizens be transformed into effective producers? These are questions which must be addressed in the interests of future peace on the African continent. The most recent experiences, although limited in number, have demonstrated the complexity of demobilization. These demanded greater time and resources than were at first expected.

In 1981, Mali asked donors to pool their resources and co-ordinate their efforts in order to transform grain production and markets, which it is generally agreed were completely distorted by the implementation of "planned economy" policies over two decades. The initiative came to be known as the PRMC (Programme de restructuration des marchés céréalières).

After mounting and sustained financial assistance, and a change in policy and support for farmers and consumers, the dysfunctional features of grain production in Mali were eliminated. Today, Mali exports agricultural surpluses and can pride itself on having a price structure based on the laws of a market economy. This is a striking example of an African success story.

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