

issues, including the conflict between Iran and Iraq. Contemporary policies on reform include the British and French endorsement of a voluntary restraint on the use of veto and the acceptance of additional permanent seats for Germany, Japan, and Europe as a whole (a proposal endorsed by Germany as well). Italy's now abandoned position was to create 8-10 seats on each of which 3 countries would rotate (rendering a total of 24-30 beneficiaries of this scheme). Italy also endorsed a seat for the European Union and objected to a German seat on the grounds that Security Council membership should not be for sale. John Groom said that creating a European Union seat at the Security Council is not realistic. The United Kingdom and France essentially speak for themselves, especially behind closed doors. Moreover, the European Union must have the capacity to act on defence policy autonomously (i.e., outside of NATO) before it can take up a seat at the Security Council. While there is a potential for the European Union to act autonomously within global bodies in the long run, much work has to be done within Europe before this can be achieved.

Substantially, United Kingdom and France agreed to work together on Africa, beginning in 1998 and have been quite cooperative. Their work contributed to the debate on Sierra Leone and the recognition that something must be done about Africa. The perception of the United Kingdom is that there is nothing particularly African about African problems, there are just many of them. There are two easy ways forward in addressing African issues: the first is to do nothing and the second is to engage in peace-keeping operations on a huge scale. To argue for either would be disastrous. The UN should intervene only when and in such a way that will make a real difference.

In his address to the General Assembly on Conflict Prevention, British Prime Minister Blair emphasised these four points:

1. prevention is better than cure (causes of conflict should be laid bare and cooperation with other international institutions, such as the IMF or the WB enhanced)
2. Blue Helmets should be sent in only when feasible
3. reaction should be fast
4. peacekeeping should be always accompanied by peacebuilding.

Guidelines for humanitarian intervention need to be developed. However, they should constitute a framework for action rather than a directive. A general view that the NATO intervention in Kosovo was illegal, but justified, persists in the United Kingdom. There is an agreement that Russians have been extremely badly handled and a general fear that Western policies are bringing the Cold War back into the Security Council

### **Synopsis of the Discussion**

The following are the key issues and questions raised by the participants about UN reform:

1. the tension between "upwardly" moving states (i.e., those states within the General Assembly who would be likely candidates for expanded Security Council seats) and those