

CHAPTER 4: CONCLUSION: THE WEB OF PEACE

4.1 Combining Traditional And Non-Traditional Approaches to Conflict Resolution

Mircea Malitza provides an enlightening depiction of the three concepts around which the web of peace is woven:

When along a river, whose waters are disputed between two neighbouring states, clashes started and a neutral force was interposed to separate the antagonists and to contain the conflict until it is solved, we have a clear case of peacekeeping. If there are at the same time, negotiations inspired or assisted by a neutral party, convened peacefully to solve the dispute, we are in the condition of peacemaking. But if the two countries build a dam on the river together or initiate a plan of regularization to benefit both, perhaps with international help, we are in the midst of peace-building action.⁹²

More than the progression from ceasefire through truce and armistice to, finally, accord, these concepts of peacekeeping, peacemaking and peacebuilding represent a process which is more likely to culminate in a true state of peace. At the same time, they are interactive concepts rather than distinct steps.

The notion that peacemaking should follow or parallel peacekeeping has always been crucial to the UN approach to conflict resolution (if it has not always done so, this has often been due more to an absence of the requisite will exhibited by the combatants than to the lack of effort on the part of the UN). Yet, there has been little systematic thought given to the interrelationship between peacebuilding and peacekeeping.

There is good reason to begin now to analyze this relationship. First, since winning the 1988 Nobel prize for peace, peacekeeping forces have been held in high esteem. Second, some analysts have observed that now, for the first time, there is virtually

⁹² Mircea Malitza, "The Improvement of Effectiveness of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations," in, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, *The United Nations and the Maintenance of International Peace and Security*, Boston: Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 1987, p. 250.