

is over, but not during, he said. Gurr agreed, suggesting that an intermediate force might be more appropriate.

Mueller added that our inability to try and convict war criminals is not the cause of war. He supported his statement by noting that slavery was abolished without trying slave-holders, and also cited the two world wars as examples. Supporting earlier comments about the size and power of the constabulary, he asserted that what is really needed is "a bigger force to make thugs fade away."

The feasibility of creating and engaging the constabulary was widely questioned. Some participants, including Mendlovitz, wondered who would finance this force. Weitz doubted, given the concentrations of authority in the UN, that the force would ever be put into action. Unless you can get rid of the veto, you'll never get anywhere, he said. Harff shared the broad concerns put forth about the idea of a constabulary, pointing out that it was not a new concept: Why hasn't it worked in the past?

A Strategy For Ending War

Jonathan Dean noted the human and economic costs engendered by violent conflict and concluded that "we have to kill war or war will kill us." As a part of his "Global Action to Prevent War," he stressed two key steps:

- building down the military capabilities of individual governments
- integrating globally all our various mechanisms for preventing war into a single programme
- building a worldwide coalition of governments and civil society organizations to promote implementation of the programme.

The discussion flowing from the presentation of this strategy revolved around questions of the feasibility of such a grand vision. Laurence, focussing on Dean's call for disarmament, argued that the overall reduction of military capabilities would not make war less likely. "This just makes us more vulnerable to tyrants," he said. On another equally sceptical note, Mueller warned that it is not getting rid of arms that brings peace, but rather peace that gets rid of arms. He went on to point out that the kinds of conflicts we see today are often fought with weapons such as machetes or agricultural tools. Disarmament would be very difficult to achieve at that low level, Mueller said. Harff, personally very doubtful that war can ever be eradicated, noted that conventional weapons are a major source of income in some countries. Until we can find some alternative means of promoting economic growth and eradicating disease to improve the lives of all people, there is not much hope of stopping economically profitable arms trafficking.

The feasibility of the "Global Action to Prevent War" was also questioned on other bases. Haines and Laurence, professing their pessimism, looked from the realist perspective. The former warned that there is a danger of losing supporters if the "grand visionary" aspects of the plan are over-emphasized. He believes that good things happen as a result of very practical developments.