

2 EARLY WARNING, AND INTELLIGENCE/INFORMATION SHARING

DPKO does not have an early warning system per se, but various parts of DPKO carry out an early warning function as it pertains to their particular tasks. The Situation Centre, the Policy and Analysis Unit, and both the Generic Planning Unit and the Conceptual Planning Unit within Mission Planning Service are examples. In addition, DPKO can and should tap into other UN early warning structures. Therefore DPKO's level of early warning per se is less than comprehensive and logically should remain so. Their area of responsibility should be restricted to the area of military intelligence and military early warning.

Other UN early warning mechanisms include DHA's. DHA in 1993 started a two-year project on a Humanitarian Early Warning System (HEWS) with the mandate of compiling information to identify potential crises with humanitarian implications. They will gather information initially on five countries of concern and then move to 55 by April 1995. They will turn out weekly general reports, produce early warning signals, and produce country profiles. It is intended that this will be shared with DPA and DPKO.

DPA also has its own early warning system. Also, starting in 1993 they convened an interdepartmental working group to start the rationalization and coordination of early warning systems in DPA, DHA, and DPKO⁶. Some thought is being given to enlarging this circle of cooperation to include the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, and having the focus for all of these separate activities in the Office of the Secretary-General.

Outside of the Secretariat, various UN agencies such as UNHCR have developed early warning structures. UNHCR's system includes capacity at their Documentation Centre in Geneva for turning out country profiles, probably the pattern that DHA's HEW is implementing⁷. Cooperation between the UN Secretariat and the specialized agencies is not really being discussed but is inevitable.

⁶ See annexed 5 page draft flow chart dated 6 January 1995. The flow chart only tells part of what is a very promising development, as political sensitivities required that it not be all that explicit about various political aspects of such coordination. As such it appears on paper to be a rather mechanistic narrow procedure, but should be viewed as signifying the cooperative state of mind of the three departments as much as a relatively and perhaps unnecessarily complex blueprint.

⁷ UNHCR's country profile expertise was developed by its Canadian Director of Documentation Sharon Rusu who had developed Canada's Refugee Board's country profiles starting in 1988.