

Comment: Human rights violations are important indicators of potential conflict. It is desirable to maintain an on-going dialogue with the UN's human rights and refugee agencies (which are mostly based in Geneva).

*** Develop partnerships with NGOs, especially those engaged in early warning.**

Comment: Similarly, there will be great benefit to working more closely with groups that can provide some of this much needed information gathering and analysis capability. NGOs often have people in the field able to observe situations first hand and with many local contacts. They are often more than willing to provide warnings to the UN because of the risk to the safety of their staff in the event of an escalation of conflict. In addition, there are several NGO groups which are now forming with the mandate for early warning (e.g., the Forum on Early Warning and Response, of which the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs is already associated), with whom the EW unit should be in close contact.

*** Monitor early warnings issued by other organizations.**

In some cases, early warnings will already have been sounded, often from sources within the country in question and sometimes from outside groups. The EW unit should keep track of such warnings to prompt further investigation, and to corroborate or discount the reports.

*** Hold special meetings devoted to early warning of the DPA/DHA/DPKO framework committee regularly and invite UN human rights agencies to attend. To provide information, selected NGOs should also be invited to attend at least some or part of these meetings.**

*** Explore the possibilities for new information-gathering agreements and norms.**

There have been significant advances in on-site inspection standards for arms control and peace-keeping. The Chemical Weapons Convention provides for the most intrusive system of inspection of any treaty yet, based on an "any site, anytime" approach, qualified by managed access provisions.⁴⁴ In the not so distant future, similar "challenge inspection" provisions could be considered for incorporation a global on-site inspection system favoring transparency in military affairs. Eisenhower's proposal of 1960 for a UN aerial reconnaissance system (made five years after his first open skies proposal), described earlier, could be re-examine by