

and prevent the escalation of conflict situations, and has a wide range of means for doing so.

Naturally this task would be impossible without the consent of the signatory countries. The existence of the states is not at issue. The High Commissioner acts with the conviction that to question the existence of states would in itself be a source of conflict. The successes enjoyed by this quite recently created position are attributable not to an independent, charismatic personality but to a genuine institution that none of the signatory states would wish to reject.

Peace cannot be installed by decree; it will be established only if a culture of peace is developed. However, the process of promoting peace can and doubtless must be accompanied by a wide variety of measures, including arms control. This process must take into account issues as wide-ranging as economic development and the progress of democracy. It remains to be seen what are the best levers available to us in the search for viable solutions.