

Partly in reaction to the high cost of humanitarian aid (not to mention peacekeeping), some policy makers are investigating possible **conflict prevention** mechanisms. Potential action ranges from high-level **preventive diplomacy** to grass-roots efforts to build community reconciliation skills. **What seems to be lacking is the knowledge base that would show us what kinds of interventions work under what conditions.** In DFAIT, Global Issues have the responsibility for this question. In CIDA, there is a wide range of programming interventions but no central repository of knowledge.

Important issues have been raised about the role of aid in complex emergencies:

a) When does humanitarian assistance become part of the problem rather than the solution?

b) How can donors discourage dependence on "international welfare"?

c) How can we prevent emergency aid from prolonging conflicts and thus the suffering of the victims?

5. WHAT CAN WE DO?

5.1 A number of initiatives are already under way

The Agency has not stood by as crises have developed in Africa. Many things have been done. Considerable effort has already been poured into promoting democracy, human rights and justice.⁴

These activities constitute an impressive array in terms of volume and diversity. Yet it is hard to fit such projects into our current sustainable development strategy.

In South Africa alone, the program generated over 84 projects between 1990 and 1994, ranging in size from \$10,000 to \$1.7 million. These projects are remarkably varied and include a wide range of activities — from anti-racist and anti-sexist education to support for community radio and election monitoring. Over 16 AIDIS projects are currently under way in sub-Saharan Africa. These projects are equally varied and cover security, demilitarization, human rights, the legal system, etc.; they range between \$50,000 and \$6 million. The preliminary lessons which Prof. Bush draws from these initiatives (pp. 33–34; see note 4) confirm and reinforce our own hypotheses.

Africa and the Middle-East Branch has studied military expenditures in Africa in relation to country military threat assessments in order to develop a balanced perspective on the relative size of military and development expenditures. One unexpected finding