




Creating the Global Brain
The United Nations

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Usual Disclaimer:
These are my views not the views of the United Nations or anyone else in the United Nations

•Could the Bombing of the UN in Baghdad on August 19 have been prevented if UN had its own intelligence analysis?

- Core Function of the United Nations is to Prevent Conflict – Maintain International Peace and Security (Article 1)
- Was set up to manage and broker power
- 2003 is not 1945

The UN is all its 191 Member States

The UN Secretariat serves all the Member States
– How can you do that?
– Lowest-common denominator decisions

- The UN Security Council – 15 members, 5 permanent
- Primary responsibility for maintenance of Intl Peace and Security
- Settlement, Sanctions, Action
- Military Staff Committee
- Subsidiary Bodies

- General Assembly – all UN Member States
- One member, one vote
- Considers general principles and makes recommendations
- Considers Annual Reports and approves budgets

General Assembly Committees

- First Committee—Disarmament and International Security Committee
- Fourth Committee—Special Political and Decolonization Committee (political and peacekeeping)
- Sixth Committee—Legal Committee (dealing with terrorism)

Some UN Departments and Commissions:

DDA – Disarmament Affairs	Regional Economic Commissions
DPA – Political Affairs	(ECE, ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP)
DPKO – Peacekeeping	Office on Drugs and Crime
UNDP – Development	ICAO – Civil Aviation
UNHCHR – Human Rights	World Bank Group
UNHCR – Refugees	ITU - Telecommunications
WHO – Health	IMO - Maritime
DESA - Economic and Social	WFP – Food distribution
DPI – Public Information	OCHA – Humanitarian affairs
UNDCP – Drug control	SSC – Training in conflict prevention

Information comes in from UN field personnel based in UN offices from all over the world

Eg UNDP has offices in 166 developing countries and regional offices.

In addition the UN has regional headquarters in Geneva, Vienna, Nairobi plus regional offices.

The Brahimi Report:

Report from the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations

A/55/305 – S/2000/809 21
August 2000

Chaired by Amb Lakhdar Brahimi

- recommends that a new information-gathering and analysis entity be created to support the informational and analytical needs of the Secretary-General and the members of the Executive Committee on Peace and Security (ECPS). Without such capacity, the Secretariat will remain a reactive institution, unable to get ahead of daily events, and the ECPS will not be able to fulfil the role for which it was created.

The Secretary-General should establish an entity, referred to here as the ECPS Information and Strategic Analysis Secretariat (EISAS), which would support the information and analysis needs of all members of ECPS; for management purposes, it should be administered by and report jointly to the heads of the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO).

Millennium Declaration (excerpt):

To make the United Nations more effective in maintaining peace and security by giving it the resources and tools it needs for conflict prevention, peaceful resolution of disputes, peacekeeping, post-conflict peace-building and reconstruction. In this context, we take note of the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations and request the General Assembly to consider its recommendations expeditiously*

* Brahimi Report

So that was the recommendation in 2000
– what was the outcome?

In 2001 the SG announced the intention to create the Strategic Analysis Secretariat Information from January 2001, primarily through existing resources in DPA, DPKO, DPI, OCHA, DDA, HCR, and DESA

Primary objectives include:

To serve as an in-house centre of knowledge for mission planners and desk officers in DPKO, DPA etc and by researching and analysing issues which are fundamental to the successful implementation of mandated peace and security activities.

To serve as the focal point for applying modern information systems and technology to the work of all parts of the United Nations system engaged in peace and security activities.

But the same report says:

The information and analysis functions of the secretariat **should not, in any way, be confused with the creation of an "Intelligence-gathering capacity" in the Secretariat.**

The secretariat would serve as the vehicle to better use information that already exists in the United Nations system or has been generated for public consumption by the media, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, etc.

Since then any further development has been hampered by blocking of funds.

- due to sensitivities of some of the 191 member states
- need to understand and address those sensitivities if we are to find a way through this
- Some of these concerns are real and do need to be addressed
- In the meantime – paralysis

Not all is gloomy however.....

DPKO PeaceKeeping Situation Centre – one positive outcome of Brahimi Report

Tasks of the Situation Centre include:

- Maintain uninterrupted communications with all UN peacekeeping missions worldwide,
- Solicit information from the field,**
- Collate and disseminate in a timely fashion raw information,**
- Provide daily briefings to senior managers
- Provide continuous event monitoring,
- Monitor developing regional situations world wide **using all available external sources** and UN information channels,

Counter Terrorism Committee –
Subsidiary Body of Security Council

•The 15 member CTC monitors the implementation of resolution 1373 by all States and tries to increase the capability of States to fight terrorism.

• **Resolution 1373** imposes binding obligations on all States, with the aim of combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations

Resolution 1373 requires Member States to, inter alia

- Deny all forms of financial support for terrorist groups
- Suppress the provision of safe haven, sustenance or support for terrorists,
- Share information with other governments on any groups practising or planning terrorist acts;**
- Co-operate with other governments in the investigation, detection, arrest and prosecution of those involved in such acts,
- Criminalize active and passive assistance for terrorism in domestic laws and bring violators of these laws to justice;
- Become party as soon as possible to the relevant international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism,
- The CTC asks every State to take specific action to meet the requirements of the resolution based on the specific circumstances in each country

At a special meeting of the CTC on 6 March 2003 the Committee met with 57 international, regional and sub-regional organisations

It was agreed that the coordinated approach to the suppression of terrorism would be based on the following

•**Information: the sharing of data and best practices relevant to global cooperation**

•Complementary organizations will focus on what they do best while avoiding duplication of effort and waste of resources

•Independent effort: within the overall coordination structure, each organization will pursue its own mandate and initiatives with greater urgency.

•Political momentum: regional and subregional organizations will ensure that counter-terrorism is given a high priority by member Governments within the framework of their implementation of resolution 1373 (2001)

UNMOVIC (UNSCOM) – Subsidiary body of Security Council - Resolutions 687, ... 1284, 1441

Work programme includes:

Analysis and assessment of information from the following sources:

- Inspection reports, docs, declarations;
- (ii) Overhead imagery
- (iii) Suppliers;
- (iv) Intelligence;
- (v) **Published material;**
- (vi) Interviews.

What next for UNMOVIC?

UK proposal of a standing inspection capability & others to support? This is a fantastic resource of unparalleled experience in the UN

- under the Security Council?
- Under the Secretary General (powers of fact-finding investigations)?
- Has to be sorted out soon

Specialized Agencies for International Peace & Security (Disarmament)

IAEA – info handled carefully but specifically uses open source information

OPCW – Handles information very carefully – commercial proprietary interests

CTBTO (PTS) – not yet in force – much of info generated will be open source

The IAEA

"The IAEA has available a broad range of information about States' nuclear programmes which it uses to perform safeguards State evaluations. These evaluations, and the independent review of their findings, are a key element of planning safeguards activities in a State and are fundamental to the process of deriving safeguards conclusions about the non-diversion of nuclear material placed under safeguards and, where appropriate, about the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities in a State."

Information relevant to IAEA safeguards implementation available to the IAEA from the following major sources

- (a) State supplied information, submitted pursuant to obligations under a safeguards agreement
- (b) Information obtained by the IAEA through its verification activities
- (c) **Open source information and other information available to the IAEA**
- (d) Information from third parties

Information mined by the IAEA, through their inspections, through open source information and through information given to them all goes through a validation process.

It is fed into the proliferation pathways analysis to see where it best fits in terms of a State's potential proliferation activities

Actually seems to be working and has been allowed by IAEA Member States (137) and Board of Governors.

UN Research Bodies

UNIDIR – Disarmament and Security

UNRISD – Social Development

UNITAR – Training

UNICRI – International Crime

UNU – UN University

INSTRAW – Advancement of Women

& research units in departments and agencies.

All meet annually to discuss their work and cooperation

EG UNITAR is currently working with scientists at CERN – along with UNOPS – to develop UNOSAT

UNOSAT is a project to provide satellite imagery and geographic information to the UN humanitarian community.

UNOSAT will be a one-stop shop for imagery plus GIS for the UN.

So where does this all leave us?

- The UN has information coming in to its Headquarters and Regional Offices from all its country-based offices
- This information is raw and digested intelligence – reports from UN employees on the situation on the ground Through their interactions with governments, military, NGOs and locals. People will tell UN employees things they don't tell others.
- This information is used within the UN system but nowhere does it all come together and be analysed and interpreted with the core function of the UN (conflict prevention) in mind.

- In addition, the UN could combine its own information with open source information from other sources
- Interpretation of all-available-source information would give the UN secretariat and field-operations an independence from Member States
- Herein lies the problem:
- States worry that currently info to the UN is manipulated and biases are heavy due to few countries having the capability to provide the UN with that information
- Other States (particularly those that have information) do not want independent analysis.

Result = Paralysis

Can anything be done?

Yes

Things move slowly but things are happening.

Now is the time to interact with the UN Secretariat on the issue. August the 19th has created an opening.

If the IAEA can do it for nuclear weapons proliferation then surely we could harness that attitude to establish a Capability UN-wide.

A Global Brain?



Don't hold your breath... but watch this space

OSS '03 BEYOND OSINT: Creating the Global Multi-Cultural Intelligence Web
Proceedings Supplement Holiday Inn Westpark Rosslyn Washington, D.C. 15-19
September 2003 - Link Page

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