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RACVIAC/C-10

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**“SEMINAR ON ARMS CONTROL IN
CRISIS SITUATIONS”**

(10th July – 11th July 2008)

*Sponsored and co-organized with the
Federal Foreign Office of The Federal
Republic of Germany*

I. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to RACVIAC annual programme for 2008 Training & Verification Division organized and executed the “Seminar on Arms control in Crisis Situations” during the period of 10th -11th July 2008. The Seminar was organized in cooperation with the Federal Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany (FFO) in the frame of the Berlin Seminars on conventional arms control. Although it was the middle of the holiday season, the seminar was very well attended. After two days of a lively debate almost all participants expressed their desire to soon return to the hospitable RACVIAC centre to continue discussions.



Seminar participants

II. PROGRAM/METHODOLOGY

The purpose of the seminar was to provide a forum as to allow for an in depth discussion on how conventional arms control could contribute to crisis management within the given limits. The OSCE / FSC catalogue of “Stabilizing Measures for Localized Crisis Situations” (1993) (DOC.FSC. /2/96) provoked discussions, which mainly focused on the following topics:

- Measures of Transparency: These would be applied mainly in pre-conflict situations and / or early stages of a crisis.
- Measures of Constraint: These would be applied either just before or during the “hot” stage of conflict/crisis.
- Measures to reinforce confidence: These would be applied in early post-conflict / -crisis situations.
- Measures for Monitoring of Compliance and Evaluation: These would be applied in the post-conflict / -crisis situations at a later stage.

Overview of the Seminar

Ambassador Nedžad Hadžimusić, the Director of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, Mr. Bernd Heinze, chargé d’affaires, German Embassy, Zagreb and Mr. Michael Biontino, Head of Division of the Conventional Disarmament and Arms Control Division, Federal Foreign Office opened the seminar.



Opening remarks

Fifty-eight participants from thirty different countries and organizations participated in the seminar. The participants were senior officials, decision makers, experts and managers in their national organizations with a large-scale of theoretical knowledge and practical experience.



Working section

The seminar was conducted as a combination of lectures/presentations followed by open discussions in two working groups, aimed at sharing expertise, opinions and lessons learned, identifying problems and finding possible solutions, as well as exploring the way ahead. During these discussions the working groups provided recommendations and suggestions as how to proceed with the development of possible projects on Arms Control in Crisis Situations.

In their presentations, lectures outlined different ways as how arms control could make an important contribution to crisis management and have a significant stabilizing effect in crisis as well as post-

conflict situations, particularly at the regional level. They reiterated there was still not enough attention given to this aspect of arms control. This seminar tried to assist in rectifying this situation and tried to provide participants with the opportunity to gain deeper understanding of the subject matter, which certainly deserved greater attention.



Experts of the Seminar

The experts shared their expertise and delivered the following presentations:

1. "Arms Control in Crisis Situations: Lessons Learnt and Perspectives for the Future – A Perception from the OSCE-Conflict Prevention Centre. Presentation by Ambassador Herbert Salber, Director of the OSCE-CPC.
2. "Chances and Limits of Arms Control in Regional Conflict Situations: Success or Failure?" by Dr. Wolfgang Zellner, Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg
3. "How to Make Arms Control an Effective Crisis Management Instrument: The Design of Arms Control Measures to Deal Effectively with Crisis Situations?" Presentation by Dr. Pál Dunay, Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP).

4. "The Dayton Peace Accord – An Example for Arms Control as a Successful Crisis Management Instrument?" by Dr. Zdzislaw Lachowski, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

5. "The Role of Arms Control and Crisis Management in General: A View on the Experiences made in Kosovo - Lessons Learnt about the Future Role of Arms Control in Crisis Situations". Presentation by Dr. Jeffrey McCausland, Dickinson University, Pennsylvania, USA.

6. "Arms Control beyond the European Context – A Realistic Perspective?" by Dr. Hans-Joachim Schmidt, Frankfurt Peace Research Institute.

III. **SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATIONS**

Conventional Arms Control Agreements, in particular the CFE-Treaty, the Vienna Document, the Open Skies Treaty and the Dayton Peace Accord, have contributed significantly to security and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area. They create a network of interlocking and complementary arms control measures and provide the overarching confidence- and security-building framework in time of fundamental change in the Euro-Atlantic security structure. Their potential to provide such framework in times of tension or crises is considerable.

This seminar provided a forum for an in-depth discussion of the ways as how conventional arms control tools can

contribute to crisis management within the given limits.

The chosen seminar topic proved to be a great asset in the light of the possible multinational cooperation. The participants were very pleased both with the seminar and the topics chosen, and have proposed this seminar to become a tradition. All the participants recognized a need for better international corporation and coordination between the countries when a crisis/conflict accrues.



Closing Remarks

The cooperation between RACVIAC and FFO ensured the presence of high-level participants, who gave particular relevant information for further consideration and discussions, as well as proposals for future projects. Everyone agreed that this seminar brought an added value and showed fields and ways as how to work in the future as a platform for co-operation at both, national and international level, as well as to foster co-operation between the civilian and military sphere in SEE.

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