

Faltering missions

Future of the United Nations is in question

By Neil Feldman
Staff Reporter

Although the United Nations had striking success in defusing recent conflicts in Nicaragua and Namibia, many current initiatives with peace-making intentions have clearly failed, raising serious questions about the future of this international governmental organization.

In some cases, a lack of resources or lagging diplomacy appears to be the reason, but most faltering U.N. missions reflect an underestimation of the belligerence that lies beyond the surface of these conflicts.

As a result of the hardships Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and the U.N. peacekeepers have had to deal with of late, there has been a growing tendency for the Security Council to try and conjure up new and more aggressive ways of utilizing the 50,000 troops currently deployed around the world.

Pessimistic reports out of the New York-based global organization have become routine, and Boutros-Ghali has not had very much in the way of good news to report at daily briefings.

Last week, for example, Boutros-

Ghali issued a depressing report on the peacekeeping mission in the former Yugoslavia. The report stated that the 16,000 soldiers separating Serbs and Croats in Croatia could be there for a considerably longer period of time than expected.

The Secretary General did, however, acknowledge the increasingly aggressive role peacekeeping missions are playing in the Balkans.

He noted that military escorts to deliver relief supplies to besieged villages in Bosnia constituted "a new dimension of peacekeeping."

“**The U.N. has become a global boondoggle.**”
— *The Washington Post*

In a move that appeared to be positive, the Security Council recently imposed trade restrictions on those ports in Cambodia held by the Khmer Rouge, a violent guerrilla organization with Maoist ideologies, because of the groups' refusal to disarm and prepare for democratic elections under a peace plan they accepted more than one year ago in Paris.

But U.N. reports out of Cambodia have been nothing but assertions of further strife and struggle in the beleaguered coastal towns currently occupied by the Khmer Rouge.

The Security Council currently is considering adopting a more forceful approach to the challenge of distributing relief supplies to Somalia's starving population. But a final decision on this has been repeatedly stalled, and many critics say that taking more than two months to reach a decision on such a critical matter is shameful for such a distinguished organization.

U.N. officials constantly issue statements that suggest they are diligently pursuing the matter, though such interjections are used only to temporarily quell the 30 or so journalists who cover the United Nations and attend daily briefings.

“The U.N. has become a global boondoggle,” *The Washington Post* recently stated.

While the failed missions are easy to pinpoint, the United Nations' initiatives continue to receive global support. Many U.N. representatives feel as though the organization effectively contains regional conflicts, meaning it has the ability to prevent territorial squabbles from spreading. This, officials argue, is enough to say the United Nations is an effective international organization.

Several U.N. representatives from

U.N. Peacekeeping costs

U.N. Peacekeeping missions location	Cost (in millions)	Personnel
Angola (Angola Verification Mission)	\$72	440
Arab-Israeli conflict (Truce Supervision)	\$31	300
Balkans (Protection Force)	\$400	16,000
Cambodia (Transitional Authority)	NA	19,500
Cyprus (Peacekeeping Force)	\$31	1,300
El Salvador (Observer Mission)	\$52	543
Golan Heights (Disengagement Observer Force)	\$42	1,300
India/Pakistan (Military Observer Group)	\$5	40
Iraq/Kuwait (Observation Mission)	\$65	549
Lebanon (Observer Force)	\$157	5,800
Somalia (Operation in Somalia)	\$23	550
Western Sahara (Mission for their Referendum)	\$200	375

Source: UN Reports, New York Times, Washington Post

Scott Maurer/DN

Eastern Europe states believe the only reason why the Serbian militias have not been able to invade Albania, one of the weakest European states, is a result of the U.N. presence in that area.

Another dilemma that has been the subject of controversy is Mozambique.

This African nation, a former Portuguese colony torn by civil unrest, has ignored the Nov. 15 deadline for demobilizing their army units. The United Nations insists it will not sanction elections to form a new government and its opposition has been dis-

armed. The result of this quagmire has been a stalemate, as the armies have been reluctant to disarm and the United Nations says it will not take an active role until its demands are met.

Last week, a U.N. spokesman issued a statement saying that a number of officials were taking a close look at the situation.

But like many regional quarrels that currently mandate U.N. intervention, Mozambique must wait until Boutros-Ghali decides it is the right time to save lives in a strife-ridden landscape.

Merger

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Douglas Abbott, an associate professor of human development and the family, agreed that the merger was a good move.

Combs and Abbott both said they saw the merger as an opportunity for each department to take advantage of the other's knowledge, ultimately for the benefit of the students.

“I think it's a good move, because it saves resources,” Combs said. “It creates a more holistic approach to the family.”

Abbott said the move should help future students become more marketable because they would understand family from both the economic and human-resource perspectives.

“It will have a whole approach to the family, with both financial and communication issues as well as the development of love and affection in families,” he said. “We will ultimately teach more about the family realm,

both emotional and financial.”

Shirley Baugher, chairwoman of the newly merged department, said the change was going fine so far.

The challenge is to define the common mission of the newly fused departments, she said.

Baugher, a Trenton, Mo., native, came to UNL from Washington, D.C., where she was a deputy administrator for the extension service at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, working with all land-grant universities on family programs.

Baugher said she was chosen to head the newly merged department because her background in home economics education and family and marriage counseling allowed her to look at families from the same diverse perspective as the newly merged department.

“We are bringing two entities together to create a new, original department,” she said.

“It's an opportunity to strengthen our program.”

to be given for education projects like this, Ward said. Profits were to be divided with 75 percent going to education and 25 percent to environmental causes.

“The state could meet its obligation easily from the lottery,” she said, “(but) the governor's office isn't willing to designate money.”

Although this is another year of budget shortfalls, Ward said the Legislature should consider the benefits from the program.

“It would be shortsighted of the Legislature to jeopardize \$7.5 million by not finding a way to appropriate \$2 million over the next biennium,” Ward said. “\$4.67 million sounds like a lot of money, but when you divide that into five years, it just doesn't go very far.”

the ability to monitor outpatient treatment programs to confirm a patient's compliance with court and physician's orders. It also would allow a judge to order defendants back into custody if they were not self-administering their prescribed medication.

Wesely also introduced LB498, which would clarify state statutes and procedures required under current mental health commitment laws.

Wesely said he was confident the proposed bill would be passed, and that if the bill would have been law last fall, the shooting incident might never have occurred.

“I think if this would have been the law then, Baldwin would be functioning well, would be healthy and generally better off than he unfortunately is now,” Wesely said.

Bill

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Ward said the university became involved in the program because it was a teacher-training institution.

“Kids coming out of high school are technology illiterate,” Ward said. “It is obvious that U.S. kids are behind in math, science and technology.”

Withem's bill is a step in the right direction, but it might not be the right time to introduce it, Ward said.

“I don't think it's a great year for this,” she said. “Sen. Withem introduced the bill because he didn't see a great deal of cooperation coming from the governor's office.”

Revenue from the state lottery, passed last November, was supposed

Baldwin

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He allegedly was fighting with the officers when the shot was fired.

After the shooting, Baldwin admitted to his doctors that he had stopped taking his two-a-day doses of lithium, an antidepressant, three days earlier.

Doctors had ordered Baldwin to take the medication after they determined last April that he was dangerous to himself and others without it. But he was allowed to self-administer the drug and was monitored only once a week.

He remains in the Lincoln Regional Center, where he was committed last month for further treatment.

Wesely's bill would give judges

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