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A conceptual analysis of preventive diplomacy in the United Nations: Cold war and post-cold war eras

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Abstract

This paper addresses a practical problem of how to manage international conflict (IC). It provides a generic theoretical background on the phenomenon of conflict. Most specifically, the paper considers the concept of preventive diplomacy (PD) as a pragmatic catalyst to the resolution and (or) management of IC. It consequently reports on some developments of great importance in this regard. In particular, a fresh insight and an analysis of the concept of PD as was applied during the cold war era and as is now being practiced are made. Accordingly, some conceptual models for early warning (EW) have been developed and proposed as vehicles for enhancing the application of PD in resolving ICs.

Keywords: International conflicts, conflict prevention, preventive diplomacy, conflict management early warning, cold war era, post-cold war era

Introduction

Our effort is motivated by the need to contribute to attempts at finding solution to the problem of (IC). The mechanism of preventive diplomacy is examined because we believe that it makes more sense to “prevent” than to “cure.” Indeed, there has been tremendous upsurge in the volume of studies in the area of crisis and conflict management, almost matching the exponential figures of the numbers of crisis and conflict experienced or recorded worldwide. For sure, a large number of these efforts focus on minimizing the escalation and spread of conflicts, a good number on negotiation techniques and others on how to establish trends and some on other key aspects.

Our present effort takes a specific look at the subject of preventive diplomacy as it concerns the United Nations during the Cold War era and as it is now. In particular, the present effort focuses on:

- The concept of preventive diplomacy as a mechanism for managing crisis and conflicts.
- Concept analysis of preventive diplomacy in the Cord War and post Cord War eras.
- Framework models for early warning (EW) data gathering areas (DGAs), as tools for enhancing the practice of the concept of preventive diplomacy towards tackling the phenomenon IC.

We have also made clarification of some key concepts of the subject and suggest what we consider to be the basic issues of preventive diplomacy as a vehicle for conflict prevention.

Some preliminaries and basic concepts

Clarification of Key Words

Peace-keeping: Peacekeeping is the containment, moderation and/or termination of hostilities between or within states through various mediums so as to complement the political process of conflict resolution and to restore and maintain peace. In the UN system, this is the deployment of a United Nations presence in the field, hitherto with the consent of all parties concern. Peace keeping normally involves the UN military and/or police personnel and frequently civilians as well. Peace-keeping is a technique that expands the possibilities for both the prevention of conflict and the keeping of peace. It involves the use of a range of diplomatic actions aimed at establishing a peaceful settlement once conflict is in progress or has resumed.

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As used by the UN, it refers to the use of diplomatic means to persuade parties in conflict to cease hostilities or drop hostile intentions and negotiate a peaceful settlement of their dispute.

Conflict Prevention: By conflict prevention is meant steps taken to avert human suffering and loss of property and act as an alternative to costly politico-military approach to resolve conflicts after they have broken out.

Conflict Management: Conflict management will refer to the ability and procedure for handling conflict.

Preventive Diplomacy: We shall adopt the definition of the term "Prevention Diplomacy" as given by Boutros-Ghali in his book, *Agenda for Peace* (1992). He defines it thus, "action to prevent disputes from arising between parties to prevent existing disputes from escalating into conflict and to limit the spread of the later when they occur".

Early Warning: Early warning refers to the provision of an on-going first-hand and timely information to decision-making organs. It necessitates dialogue with official authorities and all actors of the political life and civic society in the country.

Cold War: The cold war era is the period between 1945 immediately after the World War II and the mid-1989.

Post-Cold War: The post-cold war era is the period from late 1989/early 1990 to the present time.

United Nations: In other words, the time from the collapse of the Soviet Union the world peace organ formed at the failure of the League of Nations.

Cold War The Main Actors: The United States and Soviet Union.

The concept and phenomenon of conflict

The concept and phenomenon of conflict is one that has been in existence since human beings began to make contacts with one another.

It has thus been around since time immemorial. Basically, conflict occurs when two or more people oppose one another because of their needs, wants, goals, desires or values, which may be different. Conflict is always accompanied by feelings of anger, frustration, hate, anxiety, fear or violence.

(Coser, 1956)^[5] explains that, a distinction between conflict and hostility is essential. While conflict, as distinct from hostile attributes or sentiments, always takes place in interaction between two or more-person, hostile attributes are predisposition to engage in conflict behavior. Our effort is concern with conflict amongst nations and states. Proper decisions are required in conflict cases.

(Mankilik and Kama, 2022)^[4] In their test case, two Squadrons namely, Frigate Squadron and Fast Attack Craft (FAC) comprising of 8 ships and 5 ships respectively, were considered in assessing low quality decisions can be taken. The authors considered of the 44 platforms in the Nigerian Navy, 8 ships formed the frigate squadron, 5 ships formed the fast attack craft squadron. The result obtained showed good promise to help the decision. The results obtained

showed great promise for assisting the decision-maker in making quality choices, and the simulation model that was used to assess performance in four areas-range, endurance, lethality, and survivability-could also be applied to other factors in the majority of a given theatre of operation.

Definitions

- a) Conflict management is the practice of identifying and handling conflict in a sensible, fair and efficient manner. It could be managed by developing and using skills such as effective communication, problem-solving and negotiating with a focus on "interests" or "position."
- b) The conflict structure is the tendency of interest to oppose each other. Potentiality becomes actuality; the possibility of power becomes the actuality of opposing disposition. For a structure of conflict, people must be aware of each other. Thus, mutual awareness is also an element in the structure of conflict. The structures of conflict comprise socio cultural distances between individuals.
- c) A conflict situation is yet another element which is caused by the emerging of attitudes, by the stimulation of interests. Interests are vectors of power towards achieving a specific goal and are expectations capabilities, interests and will define as situation of conflict. Precisely, in a conflict situation, opposing attitudes either as interests or powers are facilitated.

Mechanism for conflict prevention

Overview

The idea of preventing conflict is not new. It was the dominant theme at the Congress of Vienna in 1815, which put into effect a number of measures, such as mutual consultations, the establishment of neutral states and demilitarized Zones, and the peaceful settlement of conflicts. Indeed, conflict prevention is today a central feature of the UN Charter, authorizing the Security Council, the Secretary-General and the General assembly in Chapters VI and VII to settle disputes peacefully to prevent the outbreak of wars and other forms of armed confrontation. In chapter VI and contained therein a series of preventive mechanism, namely, fact-finding, negotiation, mediation, conciliation, judicial settlement, arbitration.

It must however be noted that the earlier versions of conflict prevention generally differed from the distinctive post-cold war notion delineated above because they were shaped by the major powers and statement of past eras and the threats they envisioned. Certainly, conflict prevention has shifted increasingly from managing crisis and containing active wars to earlier involvement to avoid their emergence; from adhoc, unilateral and bilateral acts of prudent self-defence to institutionalized multilateral arrangements that apply to agree-on norms and procedures; and from state-to-state relations to a larger array of governmental and non-governmental prevention tool implementers.

It can be said that the first known effort at addressing the problem of international conflict was the concert of Europe. This was the first major multilateral agreement to avoid future wars that was adopted among modern states emerging from the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648.

Then came the League of Nations in 1919, the League exceeded the concert in institutionalizing dispute resolution. It did manage several disputes successfully especially in the

1920s, such as those involving the Baltic's Aaland Islands, Bulgaria and Greece and the Saar region. However, by the 1930s, expedient alliances had displaced the League's hoped-for multi-lateral enforcement of agreed-on rules for conflict prevention. For example, there was the Kellogg-Brand pact between the USA and France, aimed at complete renunciation of war.

The Treaty of Westphalia, the Vienna Congress and Versailles all saw dominant powers meeting in the wake of major wars to forge multilateral agreements to prevent future ones. This pattern was repeated after World War II, when the victorious Allies created the United Nations in 1945 to save succeeding generations from the encourage of war.

The UN charter came into force on 24 October 1945. The charter went further than previous agreements, committing members to uphold, in the words of Article 2, "effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace. And settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to the break of the peace". The charter has outlawed the threat or use of force against any state, except for self-defence and peace enforcement by the United Nations itself. Then, the concept of preventive diplomacy began to take and gain currency in the wake of efforts to minimize superpower conflict.

Preventive Diplomacy

The term preventive diplomacy emerged in the United Nations during the Cold War. Precisely, in 1960, the then UN Secretary General, Dag Hammarskjold coined it just to describe, "the residual function" which according to him, the UN could hope to play in a bipolar international system. He officially first used it in an annual report he made to the General Assembly of the United Nations. It referred specially to keeping regional conflicts localized so as to prevent their violent spill over into what was known as superpower arena.

Indeed, preventive diplomacy could be regarded as a proactive policy aimed at implementing international peace and security, despite the restrictions arising from the current international environment. Areas of focus had changed from the prevention of nuclear war and conflict between countries to focus on preventing civil war. Preventive diplomacy is a concept which as its origins in the search for an alternative security paradigm under the framework of the cold war. Following the end of the Cold War preventive diplomacy has redefined its objectives to better deal with the new international agenda. To do this, there is need for a clear understanding of the conceptual issues of preventive diplomacy.

Conceptually, preventive diplomacy is premised on the idiom that "prevention is better than cure" or "a stitch in time saves nine". The use of preventive diplomacy remains the most cost-effective tool for preventing disputes from arising between parties, containing existing disputes from escalating into conflicts and resolving existing conflicts through peaceful means. Other methods that could be used for preventive purposes, such as peace-keeping, humanitarian aid and post-conflict peace-building have their role in creating conditions for successful peace-making, and for implementing and consolidating a negotiated settlement. In terms of policy evolution preventive diplomacy is at a stage analogous to the notion of "deterrence" in 1984; that is it offers a nascent and promising policy frame work but not

yet a full-fledged analytical paradigm or operational security doctrine. The promise of this concept could be said to stem from three factors namely, its compelling geo-political rationales, the intuitive and straight forward appeal of its core premise, and the availability of some range of policy instruments.

(Hambury, 1999) ^[9] suggested that perhaps there is nothing very novel in the term "preventive diplomacy". It traces its roots from conventional diplomatic practice and uses a similar repertoire of policy tools, including official and Track Two negotiations, mediation, intelligence gathering and confidence building measures. However, preventive diplomacy is distinguished by its emphasis on systematic early warning and early response. Traditional diplomacy by contrasts has typically been ad-hoc and reactive, more geared to limited crisis management than to principled conflict prevention. It is well known that Centuries before Hammarskjold came up with a label, city, state, empires and national-states used emissaries, treaties, tribunals and other devices to reduce tension and avert wars. The concert of preventive diplomacy suggests the existence of some phenomenon such as a challenge or event or commitment, which requires some resources to meet it. The concept connotes the existence of a system which requires a series of actions called preventive diplomacy actions (PDA) to be implemented so as to keep or bring back the system in an acceptable working or social state.

Fundamental issues

There are six fundamental issues which we captioned the 6W-H of preventive diplomacy. They include:

PD I - What should be prevented?

PD II - Why should it be prevented?

PD III - When should it be prevented?

PD IV - Which are the focal points that should be prevented?

PD V - Where are the focal points that should be located?

PD VI - Who should do the prevention?

PD VII - How should preventive diplomacy action be carried out?

PD I: Seeks to know the type of conflict towards which the action of preventive diplomacy is intended. It necessarily gives rise to a list of items, for example, persons who are at the fore front of the crisis and actions intended by individual or groups.

PD II: Seeks to know the purpose for using preventive diplomacy to avert conflict. In other words, the appropriateness of using the technique of preventive diplomacy is the first and foremost question. Its merits and demerits are examined.

PD III: Is concerned with the time preventive diplomacy actions should be carried out. Is it before outbreak of conflict? Or is it after the conflict has broken out and do we aim at containing the spread of the conflict? Should preventive diplomacy be exercised periodically as a servicing device to community peaceful ex-existence? This suggests some kind of peacetime preventive diplomacy. Durbars and cooperative engagements could serve this purpose.

PD IV: This necessarily requires the identification of the main issues that are generating the crisis. In other words the root causes.

PD V: Is closely related to the third issue. It seeks to know the location, in this case the environmental conduciveness to conduct preventive diplomacy. For example, choosing neutral ground, or in one of the interested parties location or combination of both-sequentially or alternatively.

The sixth issue – PD VI seeks to know the personalities to conduct the exercise. It seeks to answer questions such as do we require specialist, eminent persons? Should the act be carried out by local or international figures? In the case of the UN, the Secretary-General will decide on the best suitable person or group to carryout preventive diplomacy.

PD VII – bothers on methodology or approach to the use of the PD concept. The 6W-H of preventive diplomacy as enunciated consists indeed, of steps required in preventive diplomacy planning regime. It is imperative that these issues PD I, PD II, PD III, PD IV, PD V, PD VI and PD VII are carefully analysed, to provide a basis for sound decision-making.

Cold War Era

During the cold war era, the concept of PD as enunciated by

A conceptual model of PD in cold-war era

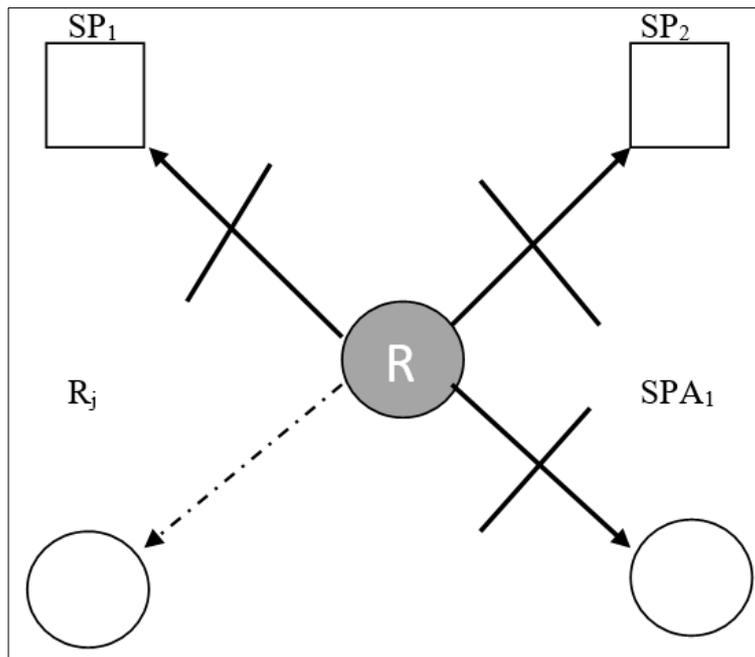


Fig 1: A conceptual outlook of the scope of preventive diplomacy in the cold war era.

SP₁ and SP₂ represent the two superpowers blocs-East and West. The shaded area R, represents any region in which there is conflict. SPA_i is a super power arena with $i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, N$, being such number of arenas. By arena, we mean a zone or location or facility of which both SP₁ and SP₂ have vested interest. R_j ($j = 1, 2, 3, \dots, N$) is any other region, which may not be in conflict and not a superpower arena. For example, a Non-Allied Nation could be in this category. The arrow \longrightarrow indicates the direction in which conflict emanating from R was not to be-allowed to spillover to. While

the UN recognised both the possibilities of regional conflicts and global conflict. However, the applicability of the concept could only be applied when such conflicts start at the regional level. From the specific meaning of the phrase, the concept precludes super powers initiating to engage in conflict. Thus, the concept appeared silent on what should happen in such circumstances and rather worked towards avoiding regional conflicts spreading or spilling to the superpower arena. UN Preventive diplomacy in the Cold War Era was concerned with two key functions, namely, to contain or limit conflict within the region of its occurrence and that of preventing conflict from spilling over to superpower arenas.

The concept of preventive diplomacy as practiced in the Cold war era was limited in scope and this was apparent in application. The UN was constrained. Direct concern for only the super-powers explained much of the proxy wars that were fought in Third World, particularly in Africa with little attention provided by the UN. It is however still arguable if it was the UN preventive diplomacy approaches that kept the superpowers from direct conflict or the Mutual Assured Deterrence Polices. Overtime, the meaning of the term preventive diplomacy evolved to mean the management of potential conflicts and has since caught the attention of many in the post-cold war era.

\dashrightarrow represents the direction in which the UN concept of preventive diplomacy was silent about, as to what could happen if conflict was to spread from R-to-R_j; where R_j is not a superpower arena. Clearly, the cold war era type of preventive diplomacy of the United Nations concerned with containing any conflict within the region of occurrence R. it was also concerned about ensuring that such conflict did not get to SP_i and any SPA_i. It was not an arena for the super power. The concept of preventive diplomacy appeared to have admitted the limitation of the United Nations

to act when conflicts involved the two super powers. Perhaps, this explains why the concept never touched on conflicts emanating within the super powers or the super power arena. The concept never said anything of conflicts in Region R with potential of spilling to R_j ($j = 1, 2, 3 \dots N$) not a superpower arena. Thus, in the Cold war era, preventive diplomacy was not considered as an approach for the prevention of potential conflict, but rather for the preservation of nascent conflicts in any way to limit its spread to the sphere of the superpowers. Within the cold war era, there were 279 vetoes cast in the Security Council. However, following the end of the cold war, there had been no such vetoes as at 2004. Thus, the two superpower rivalry was real but has largely ended, and this was the situation when the Agenda for peace was enunciated in 1992.

Post-cold war era

(Ghabeli, 1989) ^[8] noted that preventive diplomacy is a concept, which has its origin in the search for an alternative security paradigm under the framework of the Cold War. Following the end of the cold war, the concept has redefined its objectives and scope to better deal with the new international order. This move appears quite appropriate as the concept as defined and practiced in the Cold war era was concerned only with curtailment of conflicts within regions with the sole purpose of ensuring no spillover effect extends to the superpowers and or their arena. PD could be regarded as a containment policy; aimed at halting tension and any evolving crisis from becoming a full-blown conflict that may require a UN peace-keeping operation to solve. The Security Council Summit of 31 January 1992 gave the concept of preventive diplomacy a new currency. The Security Council in that summit adopted the statement that emphasized the importance of preventive diplomacy as a technique for the maintenance of international peace and security. In response to the Council's instructions, the Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali submitted his report titled "An Agenda for Peace". The report provided a conceptual framework for reflecting on issues of international peace and security in the post-cold-war era. The Agenda for Peace has come to be regarded as the basis upon which the concept of preventive diplomacy is viewed and analysed in contemporary times. Preventive diplomacy requires measures to create confidence. Indeed, Mutual confidence and good faith are essential to reducing the likelihood of conflict between states.

Conceptual model of post-cold war preventive diplomacy

To fully conceptualize and analyze preventive diplomacy in our contemporary times, let us high-light the contextual basis upon which it is based, particularly as regards the making of the Agenda for Peace. Contextually, the immense ideological barriers that for decades gave rise to distrust and hostility; and the terrible tools of destruction that were their inseparable companions has collapsed. Authoritarian regimes are giving way to more democratic forces and responsive government. Now is a time of global transition marked by uniquely contradictory trends? They are Regional and continental associations, States are evolving ways to deepen cooperation and ease some of the contentious characteristics of sovereign and nationalistic

rivalries. Consequently, the figure below illustrates the dynamics of the situation.

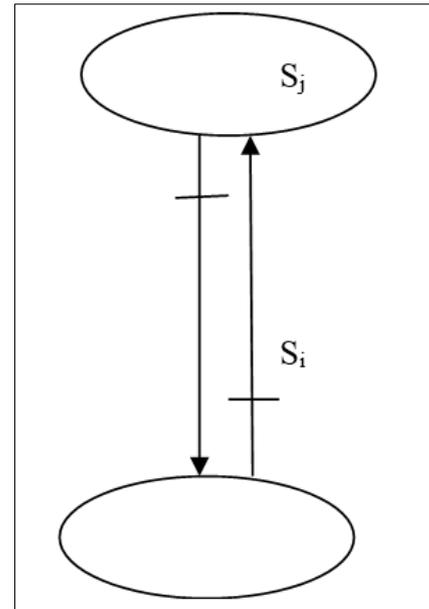


Fig 2: A conceptual illustration of the scope of preventive diplomacy in the post-cold war era.

Conceptually, S_j represent any region or state ($j = 1,2,3,\dots N$). Similarly, S_i ($i= 1,2,3, \dots$) represents any state or region, where $i \neq j$. the arrows represent a situation where the UN employs the technique of preventive diplomacy to prevent the spread of conflict from either state S_i to state S_j or vice versa. This is different when compared with Figure 1, which illustrates the Cold war era scope of preventive diplomacy. Significantly, the post-cold era is concerned with preventing conflict from erupting in either states S_i or S_j and is concerned with its spread to any other state not necessarily superpower arenas in Fig. 1. Clearly, Figure 2 shows that there is no special attachment to superpower interest to prevent spillover of conflict to it. The Cold war rivalry has ceased (though recent global intervention between the United States and Russia (not the Soviet Union – as it no longer exist) suggest a possible return of the cold war). Thus, Figure 2 does not have SPA_i as in Figure 1. The UN is therefore more tasked as the scope of preventive diplomacy has been expanded to include every state and all cases both eruption and containment of conflicts. This is vital if the world system is to be spared of social conflicts.

Channels of preventive diplomacy and some analysis

Arising from our study and analysis of both Cold and post Cold Wars, there are two distinct preventive diplomacy objectives: First, the re-establishment of channels by which the dispute can be discussed and defused; and secondly, the localization of the dispute so that it does not affect relations between the major states; the first objective, focusing on the effect of great power intervention on the outlooks and behaviours of the immediate parties, highlights the leverage of the strong upon the weak.

The strength of this lever-age depends not primarily on material strength but on the kinds of instruments committed to the influence process, the will of the great powers to attain certain objectives, and the relation of those objectives to strengths and intentions of the primary antagonists. However, the question arises; what happens where opposing

major powers defer with international organization such as the United Nations to exercise the major work of preventive diplomacy? The case of the United States vs. the Iraq invasion of 2003 stands out clearly. All said, the core premise upon which the conceptual development which preventive diplomacy rests is that international security is today better served by working proactively to avert outbreaks of large-scale violence, state collapse, terrorism and even weapons proliferation than it is by simply reacting to crises once they have occurred. Conceptually, it can be put in the con-text of operational prevention, which is geared to address conflicts when violence is imminent or small scale but still short of massive killing. The application of the concept includes political, economic, social and military tools.

In practice, the concept of preventive diplomacy is typically approached as a twin-pillar of a more recent concept – preventive defence, both as Integrated Security paradigm. There are however opposing views on whether preventive diplomacy and preventive defence are best treated and understood as intertwined aspects of a single platform or as separate policies, each with its own distinctive logic agenda. It can be argued that as a matter of practical policy, preventive diplomacy and preventive defence were concomitant concepts and therefore mutually supportive. In consequence, there is often considerable ambiguity about its precise policy objectives. At the same time the lack of conceptual and programmatic specificity has not posed insuperable obstacles to effective preventive diplomacy. Zartman believes that early warning abounds, even if the future date of a crisis available about impending conflict situations and even about crisis points, except in the UN Secretariat which is woefully bereft of intelligence and early warning facilities. This remark by (Zartman, 1999) ^[3] does provide serious challenges to the UN System to address the issue of early warning which forms the corner stone of preventive diplomacy.

Frequently cited in the failure of preventive diplomacy are the Rwandan and Gulf cases. Indeed, the UN intervention or its prevention diplomacy with regard to the Rwandan genocide has generated many questions especially on the issues of early warning and thus the need to frequently take a fresh insight into the subject of preventive diplomacy. It is also well known that the conflict that took place in northern Ghana in 1994-1995 was generally expected six months before its outbreak, although not on the scale on which it actually occurred. The spark for war was a dispute over the price of a guinea fowl at a market in the Namumba district. The question then arises, whether it is early warning or early reaction time that is the problem? The answer to the question is a subject of another work.

Early warning framework

Indeed, the concept of preventive diplomacy places great emphasis on maintaining reliable systems of early warning, including the improvement of outline capacities of intelligence gathering, data analysis and timely dissemination to decision makers. In recent years, the UN has been developing valuable network of early warning

systems within its interpretation of what the concept of preventive diplomacy should be. The development so far covers the areas of environmental threats, the risk of nuclear accidents, natural disasters, mass movements of population, threats of famine and the spread of disease. (George, 1997) ^[6] said, the current arrangements of information from these sources, is not strengthened to allow for adequate synthesizing with political indicators so as to assess whether a threat to peace exists and to analyzed what action might be taken by the United Nations to alleviate it.

But, one may wonder whether there have been many crises for which no early warning was transmitted. Experts predicted the conflicts in Bosnia even as the plan that brought cessation of hostilities between Croatia and Serbia was made in 1992. The violent killings in Rwandan in 1994 were common knowledge months in advance, though its magnitude was not precisely known. Even Saddam Hussein's intransigence and invasion of Kuwait in 1990 was an open secret. In the light of the knowledge of these event and based on the fact that the early warning received could not stop them, it does perhaps points to the need for the UN system to operate a more systematic early warning system that could guarantee implementation of information, which of course should have been subjected to thorough analysis. To ensure a reliable picture of emerging hot-spots and threats, and to enable informed early response, government intelligence and analysis should be complemented with data collected from additional sources, such as NGOs and business people. These sources and the information they provide should be taken seriously into account when making policy recommendations. Indeed, the intelligence community today monitors and analyzes an increasing number of factors, in addition to traditional indicators of potential conflicts, such as those related to the environment. The increased complexity of gathering, sorting and analyzing data for early warning results from the pressing need to respond in a time fashion, efficiently and effectively to changing events.

Whatever strategy is adopted for the employment of the concept of diplomacy, it is essential that such a strategy should aim at improving the capacity to address situations of potential conflicts. In doing this, it is imperative that more systematic and more coordinated use of existing preventive diplomacy instruments is made so as to get the root causes of conflicts. To embark on a meaningful analysis that can provide realistic preventive diplomacy posture, the United Nations requires a dependable data collection framework. According to (Ferrazaro, 1969) ^[7] a framework for any data collection system would need to satisfy certain criteria, namely, the efficacy criteria, which should:

- a. Not be too complicated as to impair quick retrieval and interpretation of true situation.
- b. Be collected, evaluated and correctly reported.
- c. Possess the capability of a minimal processing time.

Indeed, data meant to be used to prevent the occurrence of conflict should not be too complicated as to delay quick processing interpretation and use.

We provide here a model for data gathering areas.

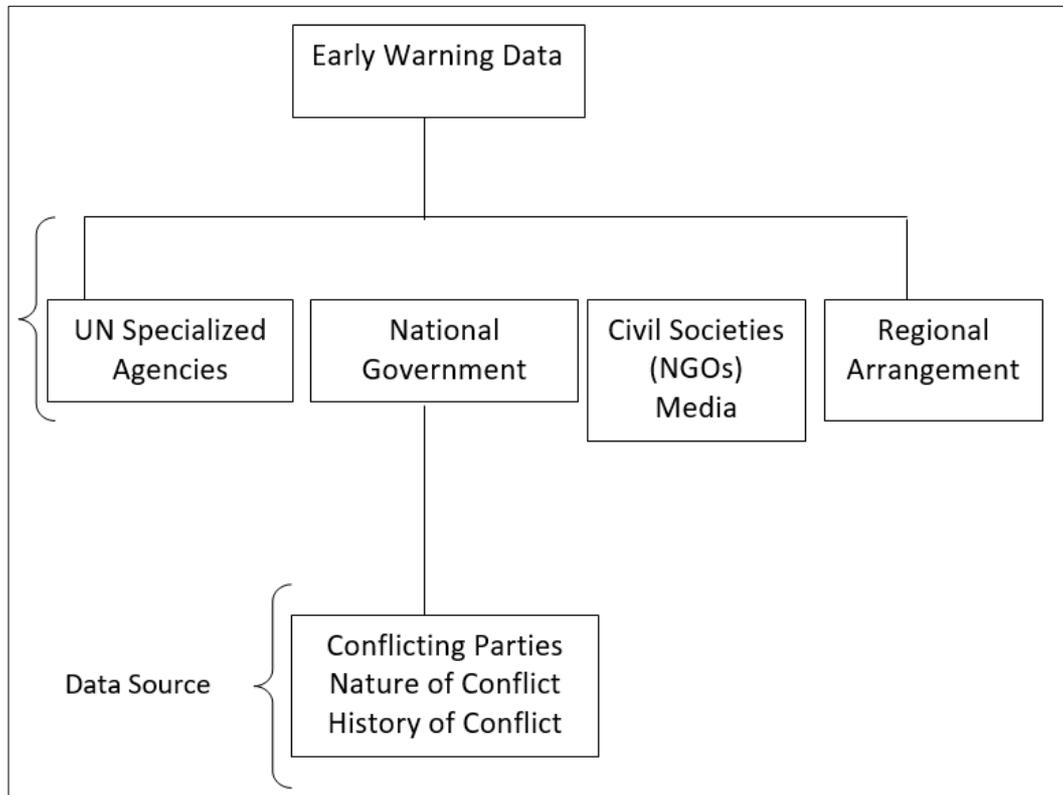


Fig 3: Model for Data Gathering Areas

These areas will mainly include data from the conflicting parties, the nature of conflict and on the history of the conflict. The UN could use as collecting agents the various regional arrangements such as ECOWAS, SADC SEAN, NATO and others. In addition, civil societies, which encompass bodies such as NGOs and the Media, would also be useful agents to collect data on potential or on-going conflicts. National government could equally provide useful information. The UN specialized Agencies could also gather on the spot data and transmit same to the UN for further processing. For systematic management and processing of early warning data an early warning analysis centre within the UN set up could enhance the effective employment of preventive diplomacy.

Summary and conclusion

The perspectives of international conflicts have become quite dominant in the field of conflict management research. The constituent's elements of social conflicts include those provided by (Rummel, 1976) ^[2] the conflict space, structures and situation. There are indeed a myriad of causes and issues that have come to shape the characteristics of conflicts. We have considered of particular interest the employment of the concept of preventive diplomacy as a viable tool for conflict resolution mechanism. The use of preventive diplomacy in the cold and post-cold war eras have been conceptualized and analyzed. Basic, yet fundamental issues that ought to be considered in the use of preventive diplomacy have been suggested.

Further work

With a clear delineation of the post-cold war application of preventive diplomacy and the identification of Data Gathering Areas (DGAs) for Early Warning, further extension of this effort is under consideration. In particular, models for effective early warning analysis centres (EWAC)

area being developed as they could enhance the use of the DGAs. Cognizance of the nature of interfacing relationship between components and system operations is also being carefully considered. Another area that could generate immense research interest is the question of whether emphasis should be placed on early warning or early reaction time. Of course, it is noted that early reaction will depend on early warning, but a consensus is required on how the gap between the two concepts of preventive diplomacy will be pragmatic the increasing social conflicts of our time.

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