PERSPECTIVES ON JOINT REGIONAL SECURITY STUDIES AND RESEARCH IN CRISIS MANAGEMENT IN SEE WITH SPECIAL CONSIDERATION OF THE ACTUAL SITUATION IN MACEDONIA

Islam Yusufi

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The need for joint regional security studies and research in crisis management has become necessary considering the fact that the region of the South East Europe (SEE) has become the focus of the security efforts of the international community as well as of the regional countries. SEE is facing various security risks and challenges that affect the security as well as political reforms of the countries in the region. What is needed is a constructive input that would come from both regional as well as international joint security studies and research in crisis management that will boost compelementarity in the efforts of the countries concerned and the international community in finding the solutions to the problems that for a long time have exacerbated the transition of SEE.

Despite the successes in the political and economic integration of SEE to the European structures, the European dimension of security studies and research in crisis management in the region seems to have been forgotten. In this presentation I will try to evaluate some of the existing joint regional security studies and research in crisis management. Following the evaluation, I will try to focus on future prospects for the joint regional security studies and research in crisis management.

Current Joint Regional Security Studies and Research in Crisis Management

It is worth to mention some of the joint regional studies and research in crisis management relevant to SEE. These include,

a. Europa South East (Europa South East Information Center: A Network Project on the Post-War Order for South-East Europe, coordinated by the Center for European Policy Studies, Brussels): On 6 June 1999, at a meeting held in Budapest at the Hungarian Parliament, it was agreed by the under-mentioned independent policy research institutes to form a network called "Europa South-East" with the objective of working towards the full integration of the whole of South-East Europe into the European Union. The aim is to prepare a coherent set of programs of accelerated economic and political reforms, integrated into or consistent with the policies of the European Union, with special reference to the CEPS proposals for "A System for Post-War South-East Europe", for: - Bulgaria and Romania, as candidates already for full membership of the European Union looking forward soon to the opening of accession negotiations; - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia,

ISLAM YUSUFI is the Assistant to National Security Adviser of the President of the Republic of Macedonia.
The views expressed in this paper represent his personal views, and do not necessarily represent the views of the institution that he works for.

Macedonia and FR Yugoslavia (with specific attention to be given to Serbia, Kosovo and Montenegro individually). The network includes several institutions from the region as well.

b.   The International Relations and Security Network (ISN): ISN is an initiative designed to promote the free flow of unclassified information and to facilitate cooperation through training and education using modern information technology. The ISN consists of a range of high-quality services for people working in international relations and security policy. The ISN's main objective is to promote networking, dialogue and cooperation in the international security community, focusing on the Partnership for Peace region. To achieve this objective the ISN has developed an extensive network of organizations and research institutes, all of which contribute to the ISN, providing a high-quality, comprehensive and wide-ranging resource through a single website. Supported by the Swiss Government as part of its contribution to the Partnership for Peace, the ISN is run by the Center for Security Studies and Conflict Research at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich.

c.   Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Center (RACVIAC): RACVIAC was established within the framework of the Stability Pact for Southeastern Europe, and it aims to provide a forum for closer cooperation among the regional states in all fields of arms control, thus promoting confidence-building among the states.

d.   Regional Mine Action Support Group (RMASG): RMASG acts as a catalyst to encourage and promote a regional focus for mine action, to facilitate more synergy within the region and to highlight where additional value could be attained. In doing so, the RMASG takes care not to duplicate the structures and programs already in place. Moreover, the Group takes advantage of existing programs and projects, building its regional focus from the bottom up. The RMASG act as a forum or focal point for the exchange of information, for the development of collaborative programs and for effective liaison between all the interested parties. In this respect, the roles of the Group are to facilitate, support, co-ordinate and encourage.

e.   The Partnership for Peace Consortium of Defense Academies and Security Studies Institutes (PfPCDASI): PfPCDASI is an international organization dedicated to strengthening defense and military education and research through enhanced institutional and national cooperation. Currently, the Consortium consists of 188 organizations based in 42 of the countries comprising the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) region. In addition to being one of the organizations, which participates in the Consortium, the Marshall Center also serves as the location of the Secretariat, the Consortium's administrative center. The Consortium also includes several Study/Working Groups. There are currently 17 active groups. Groups are formed because two or more participants or organizations are interested in working collaboratively on a specific, issue, project, or idea. Each group is semi-autonomous, determining its goals, selecting its chairperson(s), and determining its work and meeting schedules. WGs usually have one or more projects and are thus focused on the attainment of a definable goal or end state. SGs focus on intellectual exploration or development of an idea or issue. Some of the various groups and their specific goals include: Crisis Management in Central Asia SG - To establish an academic environment for discussing the topic of Crisis Management in Central Asia and to promote expansion of contacts between individuals interested in

working on this issue; Crisis Management in Southeast Europe SG - To assess the situation in the Southeast European Region through enhanced international cooperation, especially with institutions located in or close to the region of interest; Curriculum Development WG - To contribute to the on-going efforts in the EAPC of creating a co-operative network in security education by promoting excellence in curriculum development and course accreditation; Democratic Control of Armed Forces WG - To develop parameters for a postgraduate expert course on the Democratic Control of Armed Forces and Civil-Military Relations and exploring making the possible uses of ADL in this field;; Economic and Legal Aspects of Security SG - To develop parameters for a comparative analysis of economic and legal aspects of security; Lessons Learned WG - To focus on the methodologies, technologies and content of lessons learned databases, and more generally on what is needed to support an army or other military or military-political institutions, as a learning organization.

In the Context of the Security Situation in Macedonia

Considering the security situation of Macedonia, number of institutions and centers have undertaken various projects. These institutions include, ICG, BICC, Ethnic Barometer, IWPR, Antiwar.com, Stratfor.com, etc. However, the lack of cooperation among those institutions has been evident during the crisis.

They have faced number of difficulties: how to get through their research results to the decision makers; how to manage to have a balance between their donors and 'customers'; dilemma of having pure regional approach or regional approach tailored to the needs of the particular countries.

These difficulties have been major obstacles for their failure in having influence in the formulation of the governmental policies during the crisis in the Republic of Macedonia.

Perspectives

Regarding the institutions that are dealing with the security studies and research in crisis management, I would like to mention some points:

- These institutions should follow the problems, and not the other way around. No single organization can handle all the security problems; nor is there a hierarchy among the security organizations.

- The specific interest of the relevant factors should be found in order to have effective communication of the results.

- There should be formal mechanisms through which full information about both the conclusions made and the arguments, which were used to support the chosen course of action, will get through to the 'customers'.