For two days in July we had the happy privilege of welcoming Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan to York, to receive an honorary degree from the University in recognition of his work in the area of peace building. It was also an opportunity for us to get to know him, and more about his ideas and work for peace, and to introduce him to the PRDU and its work. “I’m delighted to discover that York is not only significant for its renown in chocolate” he declared, in thanking all those concerned with the Unit.

Prince Hassan’s visit to York was short and, with so much to communicate and share with him, very busy. On Wednesday 10 July, the PRDU hosted an informal dinner in the magnificent setting of Sion Hill Hall, near Thirsk, for the Prince and his wife, HRH Princess Sarvath, with other guests including the Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope and many PRDU associates.

The following morning was the degree ceremony, and in the afternoon the Unit hosted a Colloquium at St. William’s College, at which Prince Hassan was the principle speaker. This was an opportunity for a wider audience of our friends and associates – including Councillor Martin Brumby, Sheriff of York, practitioners from the field of post-war reconstruction and development, academics and the military – to hear the Prince’s views on world security. Following an introduction by PRDU Director Sultan Barakat, Malcolm Harper (Director of the United Nations Association, UK & Northern Ireland, & PRDU advisor) spoke about the continued on Page 2
The PRDU Welcomes ...

continued from Page 1

I arrived at St William’s College for the Colloquium (see right) rather tired, and rather more anxious that I couldn’t really afford an afternoon off work. I left, hours later, inspired by a Prince.

The terrorist atrocities against innocent people on September 11 last year were truly a world-shattering event. Sadly, but not surprisingly, the response of America and its allies has not been world-shattering. Here was a chance to step back and realise, for instance, that an innocent life lost anywhere in the world, due to attack from a hostile force, causes just as much anger and hatred as an innocent life lost similarly in America (or Britain for that matter). Here was a chance to take a long hard look in the mirror; to do something brave and different. Instead we are fighting fire with fire.

So why did Prince Hassan inspire me? Because he laid the onus for a more just world, a more peaceful world, firmly at the door of the individual, not the world leaders. Now I’m not stupid enough to think this can bring peace overnight, but I’m clever enough to know where the Prince is coming from. We can all do more to foster relationships around the world, to educate ourselves and each other; every little bit will help. We can join (now) with people like the Prince to build a ground swell of opinion so that one day, just maybe, the Prince to build a ground swell of opinion so that one day, just maybe, he finds the world he seeks; “a world in which dialogue, cooperation and peace are so commonplace that they excite no comment”.

Gani M Ward

role of the UN in peace keeping, stressing that, despite its shortcomings, the UN was the obvious vehicle for campaigning and dealing with humanitarian issues on a global scale. Prince Hassan then described his vision for world peace based on a ‘dialogue of cultures’.

The Prince showed himself to be a visionary, but one with his feet firmly on the ground. Firstly, he basises his ideas for peace on extensive experience of meeting and talking with the world’s political leaders. He believes peace to be a collective endeavour involving many actors, saying “I look forward to helping in the networking of your Unit with other centres of excellence working on conflict avoidance around the world”. Secondly, his own religious faith has led him to dialogue with people of other faiths and cultures around the world, aiming for mutual understanding and respect; “... working with stereotypes is best avoided when talking about human beings” was one of his telling remarks.

In his degree day address the Prince revealed further his commitment to inter-faith dialogue, as the following extracts illustrate:

“I received two years ago in my capacity of moderator of the World Conference on Religions and Peace, 2,500 participants of nine faith groups, and it was the Mufti of Sarajevo in the presence of his Jewish and Catholic and Orthodox colleagues who said ‘remember the ark of Noah’, and we all looked at him. Noah created an ark for the salvation of humanity. Can we today create an ark for the sake of our common humanity?”

“I was at the Oxonian Society in New York a few weeks ago and I said the time has come for Jews and Arabs to internalise their corresponding suffering. In Auschwitz last year, the Jews said ‘thank you for coming’, ‘you triangulated a conversation’ said the Catholics, ‘and we remembered the Jews and Muslims were victims in Sarajevo’. I just hope a moment can come when we can recognise the importance of the suffering of the other – I am not equating the two, that is not my task here today to score points, nor do I believe in scoring points.”

At the Colloquium in St. William’s College, the Prince illustrated how this faith can be translated into practical political actions that address the root causes of conflict, particularly by involving young people from different cultures around the world, and promoting a culture of peace through education and dialogue:

“I suggested to the Trilateral Commission in Washington a few weeks ago, that maybe a regional code of conduct is required that looks at weapons of mass destruction, that looks at anti-terrorist arrangements in their broadest definition, including the symptoms of the questions of poverty and alienation and the fact that we are ‘hot-housing’ the extremism that we claim to fear... The response published in the Herald Tribune of Vice President Dick Cheyne, was that it was easier to take out Saddam.”

“It was at the (recent) Club of Rome EU meeting in Brussels that we were able to add the term ‘culture’ to policy, economy and society (in the proposed Code of Conduct). So I think that one can speak about the cultural peace and that unless one understands the anthropology of suffering, the baggage that people carry with them, the reasons for their alienation, it is well nigh impossible to expect people to respect each other simply because there is an international force there imposing curfew or seeking out the bad guys or whatever it is an international force does. We are talking essentially about bringing people together rather than speaking of an imposed peace.”

The Prince’s intervention was followed by many questions from the audience, to which he gave considered and detailed responses.

Summing up, Sultan Barakat said how enormously encouraged the PRDU felt as a result of the Prince’s visit, and especially his inspiring endorsement of conflict resolution through dialogue and mutual respect. “At a time of enormous conflict and division, particularly along religious lines, ideas for peace building and opportunities for dialogue are enormously important. While these issues are rightly the concern of the UN and of research and consultancy organisations like the PRDU, Prince Hassan has convincingly demonstrated that an individual, or a ‘NGB’ (non-governmental body) as he dubbed himself, can make a real difference in reducing world tension and building trust, while inspiring others to engage in the same common pursuit of a law of peace on God’s earth.”

The report on HRH Prince Hassan’s visit to York was compiled by Margaret Chard, DPhil student at the PRDU.
Prince Hassan was awarded an honorary degree by the University of York in recognition of his work in the area of peace building over the last 30 years. His impressive achievements were highlighted at the degree ceremony by Professor Haleh Ashfar of the Department of Politics, and extracts from her speech are below.

Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to introduce His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan bin Talal, who was officially invested as Crown Prince to the Hashemite Throne in April 1965. Since then, and until the changes in succession brought about by His Late Majesty King Hussein in January 1999, he served as the King’s closest political advisor, confidant and deputy.

The long list of academic organisations founded and headed by the Prince is matched by his engagement both at practical and academic levels with the process of development. He has established, directs and has chaired the committees overseeing the national development plans in Jordan since 1973, in addition to heading the Hashemite Aid and Relief Agency.

On the international stage, many of his ideas and initiatives have acted as a catalyst for change and innovation. In 1981 he proposed that the UN should establish a New International Humanitarian Order. This resulted in his being asked by the Secretary General to found and co-chair the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues (ICIHI), whose final report was adopted as a resolution at the 42nd General Assembly of United Nations.

Prince El Hassan also chairs, and is a member of, a number of international committees and organisations, including: Membership of the Informal Advisory Group to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; President of the Club of Rome; Co-Chair of the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues; Founding Member and Vice Chairman of the Foundation for Interreligious and Intercultural Research and Dialogue.

Over the years, through his involvement in a range of international fora, Prince El Hassan has honed and refined his own personal vision to four key elements:

First and foremost, the concept of humanitarianism, which he defines as a basic orientation toward the interests and welfare of all people.

Second, the necessity for a culture of peace that combines security with dignity and basic human rights.

Third, a strong emphasis on dialogue in order to build bridges of cooperation between representatives of different cultures and faiths by unmasking stereotypes and clarifying misconceptions.

Finally, recognition of the importance of knowledge and innovation.

I can think of no more appropriate way to conclude this introduction than to quote Prince El Hassan himself. From September 2000 through June 2001, Prince El Hassan was a Visiting Fellow at All Souls College, Oxford. In his opening chapter of the book of essays, which resulted from that period of reflection, he writes as follows:

“I have worked for over thirty years to help create a world in which dialogue, cooperation and peace are so commonplace that they excite no comment; but the world I seek still eludes me. Today I invite you to join in my quest. Together, let us pursue the vision of a world beyond discrimination, in which each and every individual has the right and the opportunity to develop without prejudice, intolerance or oppression of any kind.”

This July a record number of students graduated with an MA in Post-war Recovery Studies at the Degree Day award ceremony, which took place on Thursday 11 July, 2002.

Congratulations to the following:
Frances ALESI
Basel Hassan ALMISSHAL
Richard BROWN
Silvia Maria DE GASPERIS
Saman DE SILVA
Monika ERÖS-SARNYAI
Guido GALLI
Joy GEBRE-MEDHIN
Mohammed MARIKKAR
Sarah HOLT
Christopher JACOBS
Mark KNIGHT
Georgina McALLISTER
Matthew PARRY
Zoe RHODE
Ashfaq SHAIKH
Kamraan SIDDIQUI
Brendan SOENNECKEN
Emmanuel TIGERE
Gareth WARDELL
Laura WATKINS
Simon WEATHERBED
Lucy WOOD
Fuyuko YAMAMOTO
Yuko YOSHIDA
Gergana ZAIDAN

MA graduates celebrate their degrees with Prince Hassan of Jordan and his wife, Princess Sarvath.
**News in Brief**

**Peace building in Chiapas**

As part of the PRDU’s plans to extend its work to Latin America, an international, interdisciplinary conference on Chiapas was organised by Dr Citlali Rovirosa-Madrazo and Dr Rob Aitken on 9 July. Peace building in Chiapas: the role of constitutional reforms and humanitarian assistance gathered speakers from a wide spectrum of expertise, including, Dr Citlali Rovirosa-Madrazo, Dr Rachel Sieder, Dr Emilio Rabasa, Gianni Rufini, MEP Dr Pedro Marset, Alejandro Anaya, Bill Flinn and Dr Rob Aitken who chaired the debate.

Chiapas has been in the headlines since 1994, when indigenous peoples in south-east Mexico launched an uprising, demanding constitutional reforms to grant rights for the ethnic minorities in the country. Subsequent peace negotiations between the Mexican government and the Zapatista rebels resulted in the so-called ‘Cocopa bill’, upon which peace agreements were signed back in 1996. However, unilateral amendment to the bill (approved in Congress last year) – meant the Zapatistas, as well as the largest indigenous organisations in the country, rejected the reforms since important issues of autonomy and the status of indigenous peoples were omitted.

The conference concluded that:

- Constitutional reforms remain a crucial element of peace building in Chiapas despite the political stalemate at the moment, as the lack of resolution of the issue of indigenous rights and autonomy fuels inter-community conflicts.
- There is an urgent need for community-based humanitarian projects, assisting in rebuilding links between opposing communities in Chiapas.
- humanitarian agencies need to reconsider their role and engage in reconstruction and development projects in consultation with the indigenous peoples in Chiapas.

The conference papers make valuable contributions to debates on peace building in Chiapas, and will shortly be available in an academic publication.

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**Aceh: exploring reasons for the war’s escalation**

David Connolly (DPhil Student) is researching the impact of international humanitarian assistance on IDPs in North Sumatra and Aceh. In August he attended a CODEP (Conflict Development and Peace Network) Round-table Seminar in London, where Leslie McCulloch’s (University of Tasmania) discussion paper, *The role of the Indonesian military business in conflict*, provided an alternative analysis of the protracted civil war in the province of Aceh, Indonesia.

Focusing on the vested economic interests of the police and military, the paper explored some of the instrumental reasons behind the escalation in the war. With an insufficient military budget from the State, competition for the profits and control of Aceh’s oil, gas, logging, coffee and fishing industries has perpetuated the violence. Criminal opportunism and greed have become entrenched. In considering the lack of civil accountability and the long-standing resentment between the Acehnese and the central government, McCulloch’s paper provided further proof of the need for a multifaceted conflict-resolution strategy in Aceh.

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**Sir Martin Garrod is guest speaker at UN Day**

Renowned administrator in war-torn Bosnia, Sir Martin Garrod KCB CMG OBE will be guest speaker at this year’s PRDU Open Day. Held every year to celebrate United Nations Day (the day on which the United Nations Charter was ratified), the Open Day gives us the opportunity to formally welcome our new intake of students, and introduce them to our network of friends and contacts.

Sir Martin spent over five years in Bosnia and Herzegovina from June 1993, following a career in the Royal Marines in which he reached the top position of Commandant General in the rank of Lieutenant General.

This year’s Open Day will take place on Thursday 24 October at St. William’s College, York. To reserve a place please contact Anna O'Connell (aoe10@york.ac.uk).
News in Brief

Kosovo: evaluation of physical rehabilitation in Rugova Valley

In August 2002, Dr Alpaslan Özderem conducted an evaluation of CARE Nederland’s Participatory Physical Rehabilitation in Rugova Valley Project in Kosovo. The Rugova Valley is an area west of Peja town in western Kosovo, surrounded by high mountain ridges and bordering Montenegro. The single main road through the Valley follows the Lumi i Bardhe river, and secondary roads are mostly of extremely poor quality. Access to 17 villages in the Valley is therefore difficult, and impossible during the winter. Before the war the main sources of income, for a population of 7,000, were small-scale animal husbandry, agriculture, logging and collection of non-timber forest products.

There are currently only around 800 people living in the Valley, and CARE’s project aimed to contribute to the return of permanent inhabitants. It consisted of the rehabilitation and construction of five schools, two health clinics and a cooperative building, and reconstruction of 46 (Cat. V) houses. As CARE adopted a participatory reconstruction strategy, community mobilisation and working with local partners have formed a major aspect of this worthwhile project.

High rating for PRDU training course in Italy

In April 2002, the PRDU returned to Bagnacavallo in Italy to conduct a one-week training course on post-war reconstruction. Dr Alpaslan Özderem (facilitator) led a team of PRDU researchers including Gareth Wardell, Margaret Chard and Rebecca Roberts.

After our successful first training course, in November 2000, the PRDU were invited back to run another one as part of the Peace Operations programme. This programme consists of a series of training courses in the fields of humanitarianism, peace studies and post-war recovery and is financially supported by the EU, local municipalities and Italian NGOs. This year’s training programme, which was entitled The Reconstruction of War-Torn Countries: New Challenges from Somalia to Afghanistan, had more than 40 Italian participants from diverse academic and professional backgrounds, who rated the teaching and the course content very highly.

The cooperation between PRDU, Movimondo and a number of local authorities in Ravenna Municipality will continue. Plans for the next training course in April 2003 are already under way, and we would like to acknowledge the great efforts put into the organisation of these courses by our Italian partners. We are particularly grateful to Gianni Rufini and Francesco Petrelli for their long-term commitment to this fruitful partnership.

Vietnam: research & training

Dr Mark Evans and Dr Sultan Barakat visited the Institute of the Social Sciences in Hochiminh City, Vietnam, from 11-19 March to initiate a collaborative research and training programme that will evaluate the social impact of diversification in the ownership of public enterprises. For more on this project see page 8.

Review of post-disaster housing

The PRDU has recently signed a six-month contract with the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), to undertake a review of Post-disaster Housing Reconstruction, commencing in September 2002. Funded by the Irish Government, the review will be published as one of ODI’s series of Good Practice Reviews on important development issues. Rebecca Roberts (Research Fellow) was appointed to assist Sultan Barakat with researching and writing the project.

Political violence and symbolism

Roger Mac Ginty (PRDU Lecturer) presented a paper on the role of symbolism in the targeting of political violence, to the Fitch Colloquium at Columbia University, New York, in March 2002. The colloquium Target Architecture: The role of old buildings in the management of global conflict was very much informed by the September 11 attacks on New York, and subsequent attempts to rationalise them.

Migrant capital in Asia

Dr Meghna Guhathakurta (Professor of International Relations, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh) was a visiting scholar at the PRDU during June. Her current research on Migrant Capital in Developing Urban Societies engages in a cross-regional comparison of the role of migrant capital in South and South-East Asia. It is hoped that this work, which draws on existing research, will point towards an optimal combination of the ‘ethnic’ and ‘economic’ in policies relating to post-conflict rehabilitation and development.
A student's presentation, assessed as part of the MA, is summarised on these two pages.

The PRDU would like to express its sincere thanks to all of the hosts for their valuable support this year. Below is a list of students, their hosts (in bold) and the host countries (in brackets).

Mohammad Hassan BIBIKER
International Labour Organisation (ILO) (Switzerland)

Mary BRYANT
International Fund for Agricultural Development, United Nations (USA)

Elinor CURREY
ILO (Switzerland)

Ashraf HENDY
Northern Ireland Housing Executive (Northern Ireland)

Alieu JAMMEH
Alliances for Africa (UK)

Andrea JAMES
Medical Emergency Relief International (Tajikistan)

Senad KAMENICA
The Center for War, Peace and the News Media (USA)

Diana KLEIN
International Organisation for Migration (Kosovo)

Robert LUKOCZKI
Medical Emergency Relief International (Sierra Leone)

Raz MOHAMMAD
International Alert (UK)

Martine MILLER
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (Switzerland)

Luis PALMEIRA
International Management Group (FYR Macedonia and Palestine)

Philip ROBINS
The National Institute for the Protection of the Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Macedonia (FYR Macedonia)

Yumiko SAITO
Education for Peace Institute of the Balkans (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Ihsan ULLAH
Norwegian Church Aid (Afghanistan)

Anna WALTERS
United Nations Development Programme, Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (Switzerland and Nepal)

The Civil war destroyed over 70 per cent of Sierra Leone’s healthcare services, largely in areas inaccessible and deemed too unstable for any meaningful recovery programmes to begin in earnest. Since January 2002 the situation has improved, with the recovery process entering into the reconstruction phase.

I spent six weeks assisting Merlin, a medical NGO providing Primary Healthcare to local communities. My terms of reference included researching ideas for future long-term sustainable projects such as HIV/AIDS prevention and environmental waste management. I also gained a fascinating insight into the healthcare programmes in operation, notably support for the Paediatric Ward, Lassa Fever care and Malaria Control.

In the short time I spent travelling between the Western city of Freetown and the Eastern District of Kenema, I developed a tremendous appreciation of the efforts being made by local people and international staff who are helping rebuild the country’s highly underdeveloped healthcare system. The whole experience left me with a strong belief in this West African country’s sense of community spirit and will to succeed in building a better future and peaceful existence.

Robert LUKOCZKI, United Kingdom

Reintegration of former KLA combatants in Kosovo

My placement was in Kosovo with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), an intergovernmental agency which deals with challenges that face migrants, and caters for their well-being. IOM Kosovo is assisting voluntary return and reintegration of Kosovars, as well as the reintegration of former combatants.

In many war-affected countries former combatants pose a threat to a transition from war to peace, and either cause relapse into the old conflict or create a new one. Often they are young, armed men with no economic means to sustain themselves and no skills other than military training.

For two months I worked with the Information, Counselling and Referral Service (ICRS) in IOM Kosovo. The Service is directed towards demobilized former combatants who receive information about potential employment, engage in vocational/business planning training, and take part in various income generation projects.

The two most interesting tasks I had to fulfil were (1) accompanying the outreach assistance on his visits to evaluate income generation projects of former combatants, and (2) designing a questionnaire for a survey. The survey will generate data about the current socio-economic situation of former combatants, as well as serve as a future tool for the evaluation of IOM’s assistance to former combatants.

This was a unique experience for me. Having already studied ‘reintegration of former combatants’ and ‘preparation of surveys’ as part of the Masters course, I was able to utilize this knowledge and actively contribute to IOM’s work in Kosovo. I also had the chance to learn from field workers who were more than willing to share their experiences with me.

Diana KLEIN, Israel

An ex-combatant undertaking an income generation scheme bottling soft drinks.
Refugee flows into Europe

My placement with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees’ (UNHCR) Department of International Protection, in Geneva, consisted of researching and writing background papers on the treatment of Palestinian refugees in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Kuwait, as well as a background paper up-date regarding the developing humanitarian situation in Colombia. These were then presented to the European Union (EU) member countries during March and May meetings to specifically address the concern of Palestinian and Colombian refugee flows into Europe. The papers will be utilised by EU members to determine their perspective regarding status for refugees from these regions.

Extensive research was also carried out on refugee jurisprudence in order to analyse trends, and the application of national refugee legislation around the world. Areas researched included non-refoulement, membership of a particular social group, and refugee children protection. Whilst in Geneva, I took the opportunity to attend the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, as well as the Commission on Torture. I had read a great deal about both, and was now able to witness their working first-hand.

During my placement, I gained a much more in-depth understanding of the UN system and the role of UNHCR in refugee policy development. I also developed legal research techniques which built upon my interest in the restoration of the rule of law in post-conflict societies, and the legal concerns confronting refugees. The experience reinforced my belief that the adoption of national refugee legislation, based on international protection standards, is key to strengthening asylum, making protection more effective and providing a basis for seeking solutions to the plight of refugees. Incorporating international law into national legislation is particularly important in areas on which the Refugee Convention is silent, such as procedures for determining refugee status.

Martine MILLER, USA

Medical relief in Tajikistan

For my work placement I was sponsored by the UK-based NGO Medical Emergency Relief International (Merlin) in Tajikistan. Merlin provides medical relief in the first phase of international emergencies in more than 13 countries worldwide, and has been in Tajikistan since 1996 in response to a typhoid outbreak. The impact of the collapse of the Soviet Union, and the subsequent civil war, took its toll on the health infrastructure. Infectious diseases returned to Tajikistan with the highest cases reported in Khatlon Oblast (in the south-west). Merlin is working with existing local structures to provide access to health care in the poorest areas of this region, together with a ‘Roll Back Malaria’ programme countrywide.

During my assignment I worked in Dushanbe and Khatlon Oblast, researching Merlin’s programmes and identifying ways in which they could ensure more community participation, whilst building on the initiatives of existing local groups—emphasis being placed upon ownership of the programmes while ensuring that they can be sustainable. I also used information gathered for the basis for my dissertation on the role of informal networks in health service provision post-war.

For personal development, the work-placement was a valuable opportunity to put to use the knowledge and skills acquired on the MA course while observing the operations of an NGO working in a post-war context, which I hope to transfer into my work at UNICEF. The hospitality of the national staff and the people that I met with in the communities was warm and welcoming. I believe that they learned as much about me as I did about them.

Andrea JAMES, UK

Damage assessment in the West Bank and Gaza

During my placement in Skopje, Macedonia, with IMG (International Management Group), the General Director asked me if I was interested to join a team of technical experts to carry out, on behalf of the European Commission, a damage assessment in the West Bank and Gaza. This challenge provided me with a new insight into a conflict area, and the following observations come as a result of my time spent in Palestine.

On 14 June I attempted to visit Jenin for a scheduled meeting with the Mayor, in order to discuss priority infrastructure projects which the city needs urgently in order to cope with the current crises. At the Israeli army checkpoint, the only entry point into the town, I was told by a soldier to turn back, as dozens of Israeli occupation tanks and military vehicles had stormed Jenin that dawn.

Nowadays this scenario, as I observe, seems to be the daily tragedy...
of Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Restriction of movement, long delays at checkpoints and the inability to make ends meet had a tragic effect on the population. I meet Samir who is 42, lives in Gaza, and has seven children, the eldest a girl of 12. Samir had always worked in Israel in the construction industry. He started to build a three-room house for his family. Before he could finish it he lost his job and his work permit, and he has not been able to find work again since.

It seems to me, newly arrived in the region, that the Israeli way of dealing with the crises has been a combination of stoicism, memory and fighting back. The consolidation of ethnic-national separation is slow, incremental, and extraordinarily destructive. Israel’s policy in the territories, and at home, is bringing the reality of apartheid closer.

Throughout my month in Ramallah, Nablus, Jenin and Gaza, all I saw was destruction. A concrete-and-asphalt ugliness now mars some of the most beautiful views in the world. Hillsides have been carved up for bypass roads to Israeli settlements. On either side of the roads Palestinian homes have been destroyed, olive trees uprooted and orange orchards razed, in order to enhance visibility. All that remains is a no-man’s land topped by watchtowers. In the hostilities, the omnipresent bulldozers have as much strategic importance as the tanks. Never before has such an innocuous piece of equipment augured such violence and brutality.

For the European Commission I have been compiling an extraordinary list of EU-funded projects that have been damaged. These include Gaza international airport, Gaza seaport, Municipal infrastructure including schools, public housing projects, roads, sewers and recycling centres. In total 17 projects valued at US$15.58m.

The problems associated with the “Palestinianization” of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have been exacerbated by attempts to seal off the West Bank from Israel. The government has now approved funding for the construction of a fully-fledged buffer zone between Israel and the occupied territories. It refuses, however, to grapple with the practicality, let alone the rationality, of building a physical barrier with Jews on both sides of the divide. No physical disengagement makes sense without a solution to the settlement issue.

The policy of constructing fences around fences only complicates any future political settlement. Construction work has now begun on a 70 mile fence that will separate Israeli towns from Israeli-occupied Palestinian areas. The fence will be a precursor to a more ambitious barrier, 280 miles long, including 30 miles in the Jerusalem area.

A recent report published by the UN Commission on Human Rights challenges Israel’s policy of building settlements in Palestinian territories and destroying Arab homes and farmland as a war crime under International Law. “Israel has used the current crises to consolidate its occupation of Palestinian areas”, said Miloon Kothari, the housing expert of the UN. Kothari also criticized the destruction of homes during Israeli incursions, like the battle in Jenin refugee camp.

Real victory will only come about if, and when, the violence comes to an end and both sides get back to negotiating a final agreement to this bloody conflict.

Luis PALMEIRA, Portugal/UK

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**Student Placements**

**continued from Page 7**

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**Equitization in Vietnam**

As highlighted on page 5, the PRDU has initiated a research and training programme to evaluate the social impact of equitization (co phan hoa). This refers to diversification in the ownership of public enterprises in Vietnam. The Vietnamese government is quick to point out that this is not privatization. In reality this is window dressing: while certain equitized enterprises remain public-private partnerships, an increasing number are now privately owned and run. Moreover, equitization has been coterminous with the growth of loans and grants from international donors and is a key plank of neo-liberal structural reforms, introduced to ensure the economic support of the World Bank.

The research draws on survey data conducted in 100 equitized SOEs. It demonstrates that redundancies have increased throughout equitization (especially amongst middle-aged women) and the lack of an adequate social safety net for workers in the informal sector is resulting in misery for thousands of former SOE workers.

During the visit, a conference was organised by ISS colleagues – with economic policy-makers, trade unionists and academics – to kick-start a discussion on how to ameliorate problems emanating from equitization. It received extremely positive press and television coverage, and signalled the start of a six-year research project with policy-makers in the Ministry of Labour. This is the first action-based research project involving a western higher education institution to receive the support of the Vietnamese government. It has also received the financial support of the British Council. The aim is to provide recommendations to help workers, governmental and non-governmental organisations, together with the donor community, to offset social problems arising from equitization, and meet the challenges of market reform.

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Mark Evans and Sultan Barakat with Vietnamese colleagues.
**News from Jordan’s CSDC**

**Women in Parliament project**

As part of a Jordanian women’s initiative funded by the European Union and the British Council, Sultan Barakat and Rebecca Roberts (DPhil student at the PRDU) undertook consultancy work to promote the understanding of democracy and raise awareness about the importance of popular political participation among women and youth in Jordan.

Workshops were held with academic staff and students from JUST and the University of Jordan (UoJ), from 14–24 May. They focused on the meaning of democracy, opportunities for (and obstacles to) women and youth participating in politics in Jordan, and mechanisms that might be implemented to increase their participation. Dr Barakat and Ms Roberts encouraged participants to engage actively in exploring the various issues, but facilitated discussion with theoretical background information and case studies taken from around the world.

The participants’ commitment and enthusiasm was impressive, and all, even those initially sceptical about the project, felt it had been worthwhile. It was evident from the level of discussion, and understanding of the issues, that the CSDC has already succeeded in raising awareness of democratic and social issues.

From the workshops, many conclusions were drawn and ideas for new awareness-raising projects suggested. It was felt that working with youth at Universities would be one of the easiest and most effective starting points in Jordanian society. In addition to holding further workshops and debates it was felt that more innovative methods could be used to raise awareness. Ideas included a poster competition, drama productions focussing on social and political issues, and a student radio station.

Devolving responsibilities normally assumed by members of staff to students, and involving them in the decision making process at all levels of the University, were also considered. For example, as is the case in most UK universities, student representatives could attend committee meetings to discuss examinations procedures, welfare issues and other aspects of university life. In other areas, such as the production of a newsletter and provision of entertainments, students could be allowed more autonomy. Currently, such student activities are closely supervised by University staff.

It was agreed that future work needs to focus on politics in its broadest sense, not just formal politics in the national and international arena. Participants recognized the importance of increasing political participation at the grassroots level of society and introducing individuals from an early age, allowing them to participate in decision making in their homes and throughout their education. It was decided to hold joint discussions between the university staff and students to explore ways of achieving this.

The consultancy ended positively and key players from JUST and JoU were committed to building on the issues raised and exploring the possibilities for future activities identified by workshop participants.

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**Self-Assessment and Strategic Planning for the CSDC**

From 29 July–12 August 2002, Sultan Barakat and Richard Jones (PRDU DPhil student) undertook a self-assessment and evaluation of the activities of the CSDC. Working with the Centre’s Director, Dr. Osama Nuisser, and other key members, it became clear that the primary factor for continued success was the high level of motivation and commitment that all the CSDC team displayed. This, coupled with high student interest, ensures the sustainability of the Centre.

The evaluation resulted in the compilation of a detailed action plan for the next four years, which focused particular attention on the process of needs assessment within the local communities around JUST. Once these assessments have been undertaken, using the skills that participants have gained through their time with the CSDC, priorities for positive community actions can be established with the core team.

Other main evaluation outcomes were the need to: restructure the administration of the Centre through defining roles for officers; restructure workshops, building on the capacities of core team members, so that they become recognised courses within the JUST curriculum; and foster more strategic relationships with like-minded institutions.

Participants worked in small groups, with each group presenting its ideas to the Workshop in plenary sessions.
Focus on Africa

Living in security, paying the price in hopelessness

Richard Jones (PRDU DPhil student) reports on a two-month fieldwork research visit to Uganda/Rwanda during which he carried out Participatory Poverty Assessments (PPAs) in two refugee camps in South Western Uganda.

The hypotheses of my research is that stabilisation and development, within the Great Lakes area of Africa, can only be sustainable when poverty reduction strategies are integrated with refugee resettlement and repatriation programmes. It has necessitated the creation of a social, economic and political frame of reference that facilitates the analysis of poverty reduction and micro level capacity-building strategies. Links between formal macroeconomic structural adjustment and micro level community development need to be enhanced and more fully integrated with the realities of mass movements of population – a fundamental characteristic of the Great Lakes.

The PPAs were conducted in workshops for specific groups (men, women, youths). Additional research techniques were also used to increase validity. I headed a research team which comprised a researcher from the Centre for Inter-African Relations and key informants from the refugee camps. There were some marked differences between the two camps:

Oruchinga has ethnic Rwandan Hutus and covers just 14km²; Nakivale has refugees from all over the Great Lakes and the Horn of Africa, and covers 84km². The camps offer security, but this is paid for by very poor living conditions.

The poverty assessments reinforced what was plain to see – there was a severe lack of decent water supply and sanitation, the health clinic was understaffed and only had a limited variety of drugs (chloroquine for Malaria and paracetamol), and the living conditions were cramped and primitive. The population growth rate was high, and the life expectancy low (38 years).

However, the refugees’ perceptions of their own situation and priorities for change proved very insightful, and confirmed much of the theory behind such research exercises – people are perfectly capable of analysing their own situations and defining their own needs, priorities and potential solutions, if only they are asked!

The same type of PPAs will be conducted during my second research visit to Rwanda in August, as a member of the Rwandan Ministry of Finance’s Poverty Assessment Team.

Richard’s research is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council with an additional contribution from UNHCR.

Unique peacebuilding

Evan Hoffman (MA graduate, 2000) acted as consultant in the design and delivery of a six-day Peacebuilding Workshop which was conducted in Nairobi by the Conflict Resolution Program (CRP) of Atlanta’s Carter Center, in February this year.

“I am grateful for the opportunity to have sat in a room with people who are my enemy, and learn from them.”

So said one participant at the end of this unique workshop, which was designed to fill several needs; not only did it provide training to the CRP staff, but it also brought together six representatives from each of: the Government of Sudan (GoS); Sudan People’s Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A); and Uganda. The goals of the workshop were defined as: explore peacebuilding in intra-state conflict; learn negotiation & mediation skills; learn from each other; build relationships for peace.

Once the participants had decided on the ground rules that would guide the workshop, training officially began. The first three days were spent exploring the theory and tools of conflict resolution, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), mediation, and negotiation. Participants then had a chance to practice these new skills in several roleplays. On day four the focus was on communication skills,
Focus on Africa

Simple research methods for sustainable health services in Somalia

Sean Deely (MA graduate 1998), Senior Officer for Post Conflict Recovery in the IFRC’s Disaster Preparedness and Response department, updates the Federation’s venture to implement health-sector rehabilitation in Puntland State.

More than a decade after the conflict in Somalia, four children out of every ten still die before their fifth birthday. The PRDU is working with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to improve mother-and-child health programming there.

Since April 2000, the PRDU has been assisting in a health-sector rehabilitation study in northeast and northwest Somalia. The study seeks to identify lessons from health programming by the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) which has been running 49 Mother and Child Health clinics in Somalia for almost a decade.

At the centre of the project – a joint initiative between the International Federation and the World Bank – is the hypothesis that the SRCS can play an important role in establishing appropriate and sustainable community health services by building its programme on the willingness, technical capacities and material resources available within communities, to share the responsibility for their MCH clinics.

In June, a mission took place to conduct a Household Survey Training and Preparation workshop in Somaliland, in the northeast of Somalia. Somaliland has made considerable progress in its efforts to recover from the bitter conflict that tore Somalia apart in the early 1990s. However, progress in the health sector recovery has been slow, and inadequate primary health care is one of the main reasons for the high infant mortality rate.

The provision of sustainable services is made all the more difficult by the absence of reliable data on the socio-economic conditions of the population.

The workshop aimed to train SRCS Somaliland branch and clinic staff, and Community Health Committee representatives, and Directorate of Health personnel in data gathering and surveying techniques. A household survey questionnaire was developed with the participants and field tested, and a plan elaborated for the conduct of the survey. The workshop was planned and organised by Sean Deely, a doctoral student at the PRDU. Sultan Barakat, PRDU Director, was the main facilitator, using a range of techniques to overcome cultural, linguistic and literacy barriers and transfer often complex concepts to the participants.

In total 23 Somali Red Crescent branch and clinic staff, 13 Community Health Committee representatives and 4 Ministry of Health staff were trained in designing, planning and conducting small-scale surveys. A household survey questionnaire containing 72 questions on 11 different aspects of households’ health and socio-economic conditions was designed, revised, tested and finalised.

During July, seven teams consisting of clinic staff and community elders completed 700 household interviews, and this data will be tabulated in August for analysis, validation and interpretation at a follow-up workshop in September.

The results of the workshop were, overall, very positive. It was clear from participants’ comments and reflections that the week had created a space for sharing common interests, building trust, forming new relationships, and stimulating constructive dialogue amongst a people who have been in conflict since 1956. Many participants expressed a need for similar future workshops. In the meantime, the 31 participants have returned to their home communities with practical skills in resolving conflicts non-violently, and the theory to back such skills.

Participants and trainers at the June workshop in Somaliland, northeast Somalia.

training for Sudan

Specifically, learning to listen. The following day, workshop participants had the opportunity to share with the group any peacebuilding activities that they were currently involved in. Presentations were made on behalf of UNICEF, CHARM, and Operation Save Innocent Lives (OSIL). In the afternoon two keynote speakers joined the group: former Kenyan Ambassador Bethuel Kiplagat spoke of his work in assisting the peace process in Mozambique; whilst Dr. Mwiguru from the University of Nairobi shared his experiences with inter-tribal conflict resolution in Kenya’s Rift Valley.

The workshop concluded with a complex multi-party roleplay and a simulated press-conference. Throughout the entire workshop, techniques were used to constantly shift group dynamics and thus stimulate social interactions.

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Afghanistan: preparing for rehabilitation

Innovative Kabul-based training programme announced

Later this year a ground-breaking training programme will begin in Kabul, aimed at capacity-building amongst Afghans working in, or recruited to work in, the central, provincial and district level public administration. Gareth Wardell, PRDU Research Fellow, reports.

The PRDU, in partnership with our friends at the International Training Programme for Conflict Management (ITPCM) at the University of Pisa, is to be involved in an innovative new Kabul-based project aimed at strengthening the capacity of the Afghan public administration. The concept for establishing such a project inside Afghanistan emerged during discussions with course participants at a training course Preparing for the Rehabilitation Effort in Afghanistan held in Pisa earlier this year (see below).

The project, which has secured over 200,000 Euros in funding from the European Union, will consist of a number of short-term training programmes. Special attention will be paid to the recovery of human resources from the diaspora community, and to developing culturally sensitive approaches to assisting Afghan women.

Planning is now under way for an initial two-week Exploratory Mission in the second half of September.

Two initial training courses on public administration and post-war reconstruction, and one Training of Trainers (ToT) course, will follow in November/December. The initiative is to be implemented as a pilot project with the aim of developing a successful strategy to facilitate the design of similar, capacity building activities elsewhere in Afghanistan.

Devoted to Afghanistan’s reconstruction

Sultan Barakat has Guest Edited a Special Issue of Third World Quarterly, entirely devoted to Afghanistan’s reconstruction. It looks critically at the evolution and meaning of core concepts underpinning aims and strategies for recovery, and shows that, despite this understanding, operational practice continues to contradict these principles and lessons learned from proven experience.

Twelve articles – from academic experts and experienced humanitarian practitioners – cover a broad spectrum of topics including: the role of international aid, peace-building & capacity-building measures, cultural heritage, disarmament demobilisation and reintegration, demining, formal and informal disability resources, Afghan women, and the design of research projects in war-torn societies.

To order a copy of this Special Issue, or subscribe to Third World Quarterly, contact Carfax Publishing, Taylor & Francis Ltd. Tel: +44 (0) 1256 813002 Email: journals.orders@tandf.co.uk Web: www.tandf.co.uk/journals

Pisa and York join forces

Building on the long-standing collaboration between the PRDU (University of York) and the International Training Programme for Conflict Management (ITPCM, University of Pisa) a joint course, Preparing for the Rehabilitation Effort in Afghanistan, was designed and delivered in Pisa from 25 February to 9 March 2002. It addressed the needs of aid and development agency personnel already working in, or likely to be deployed to, Afghanistan. Subjects covered included:

- the historical and contemporary situation in the country;
- the regional and international dynamics of the conflict;
- international, humanitarian and human rights law;
- personal security, with special emphasis on landmine awareness;
- multicultural approaches to conflict resolution;
- post conflict rehabilitation principles, guidelines and approaches;
- general guidelines on gender, cultural sensitivity and cross cultural interaction.

There were 31 participants representing 19 nationalities, including 7 Afghans. The course, which was organised under the patronage of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, received official endorsement/sponsorship from a wide range of international agencies including: the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the ILO, UNOPS, and the United States Embassy in Rome. In addition to speakers from the PRDU and the ITPCM, there were visiting speakers from a number of UN agencies, alongside Frances Vendrell, former Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General to Afghanistan and currently special advisor to the Spanish Presidency of the European Union on Afghanistan.