

INTERNATIONAL PEACE PROJECT FUNDING PROPOSAL: PREDICTING PEACE OR WAR

Executive Summary:

A. Why are we asking for your support?

1. To create a forum to publish and debate the results of conflict analysis for the public benefit:
 - Trends towards peace or war can be predicted in any region of the world;
 - One method of prediction has been tried and, *prima facie*, it works;
 - Now the Trust wants to test many methods to find those that work best.
2. This public benefit is capable of proof:
 - ‘Predicting peace’ means foreseeing a consequent emphasis on peaceful, rather than military, techniques for resolving an international dispute, i.e. on cooperative rather than coercive means of change;
 - Different techniques of conflict analysis can be used to ‘map’ likely trends towards peace or war in any region of conflict around the world;
 - The effectiveness of these techniques can then be tested against the subsequent course of events in that region of the world and lessons drawn by policy makers.
3. This public benefit meets humanity’s need to secure a state of peace:
 - Predicting peace or war successfully would offer the prize of being able to influence developments in that region by educational means;
 - The fairness (i.e. justice) of a technique of conflict analysis to all parties would be the key to securing a state of peace and avoiding a state of war;
 - The Trust would, therefore, seek to ascertain what balance of peaceful and military techniques is needed for securing a state of peace in a region of conflict.

B. What are we asking for?

- a.) Active interest in the advancement of the education of the public in the differing means of securing a state of peace and avoiding a state of war;
- b.) Contribution to core costs of the Trust estimated at £50,000 per annum over three years from 1 September 2007 plus £25,000 one-off costs; or
- c.) Contribution to IPP Briefings estimated at £64,200 per conflict region (on average) including dissemination of results.

C. How will you know if your contribution has made a difference?

- If the Trust’s educational work in conflict regions makes people more secure.

Programme Output

It may be helpful to start by looking at the envisaged output from contests between differing techniques of conflict analysis called 'Peace Games'. Each contest would focus on a specific region of international or intra-national conflict leading to the publication of a Briefing within a Series. Initially, predictions of peace or war would be sought for one or more of the following conflicts (the list is not intended to be exhaustive):

Series A: Global/North America

The Global 'War on Terrorism' – Where Next?

Series B: Africa

Sub-Saharan Africa, 1990-2010: Lessons for the Future of Peaceful Conflict Resolution
Sudan: Post-War or New War?

Series C: Asia

The People's Republic of China: Evolution or Revolution?

The Conflict Over Kashmir – New Moves to Peace?

Korea v Korea: Reunification as a Path to Peace or War?

Sri Lanka: Ceasefire to Peace or Back to War?

Series D: Europe

The Baltic States: Future Conflict or Co-operation between NATO and Russia?

Series E: Middle East

Israel and the Palestinian Authority – Moves to a Different Kind of Conflict?

Iraq: What Kind of Future Peace or War?

Iran: Religion and Politics – What Future Implications for Peace or War?

Series F: South America/Central America

Dealing with Drugs Cartels: What Role for Force and for Co-operation?

Each Briefing is intended to be 'user-friendly' such that each contribution in every Briefing is set out in common format that enables the reader to compare 'like-for-like'. The sample in the Appendix offers an illustration of the terms of reference for a Briefing on the global 'war on terrorism' and the proposed format for each contribution. An Executive Summary at the start of every briefing will place each contributor's own executive summary, not exceeding one A4 page in length, side by side with the others to offer the most convenient access for busy policy makers and practitioners.

As all the contributions will be published simultaneously it should become obvious over time whose method of analysis is holding up best when judged against the actual course of events in that region of conflict. Each contributor is asked to identify in which direction the analysis points – i.e. to more co-operative or coercive relations between the parties in conflict – and on what assumptions. The process is explained below.

Production Process

The IPP Trustees envisage the following timetable for the launch of a rolling programme of Briefings dependent on the scale of demand and funding. For the sake of simplicity only the production process for the first Briefing of Series A is described:

Briefing A/1: The Global 'War on Terrorism' – Where Next?

September 2007 – Stage 1: Outline Proposal (provisional deadline: 4 December 2007)

The Trustees will write to a range of experts in various countries to commission the appendices containing the factual background for the full proposals and final Briefing.

At the same time advertisements will be placed in relevant journals to encourage the widest possible spectrum of analytical methods and viewpoints from contributors e.g. Foreign Affairs, International Affairs, International Security, Survival, RUSI Journal and Security Dialogue and other journals of major national States. The Trustees will also write directly to relevant educational institutions, governmental departments, companies and non-governmental organisations to encourage participation.

The forms for completion (a shortened version of the sample below) will be designed so that the IPP Secretariat can anonymise the submissions to ensure IPP Trustees select the contributors to the Briefing on the criteria listed below, without fear or favour to anyone:

- Technical merit of Outline Proposals, especially the proposed method of analysis and its capacity for implementation;
- Objective criteria for judging outcomes, which are testable and therefore falsifiable, must be pre-stated but can be amended at the full proposal stage;
- Political balance, so that contestants representing each main viewpoint and as many minority opinions as possible are given a place in each publication.

January 2008 – Stage 2: Full submission (provisional deadline: 2 June 2008)

Once the Trustees have selected the contributors to the Briefing, on the above criteria, full proposals will be invited and funding offered to enable them to undertake this task. At this stage there may be opportunities for cross-planting of analytical methods such that the Trustees may suggest (but not impose) collaboration between certain contributors. Each contributor will also have access to the expert summaries which will constitute the Appendices and may propose amendments or additions to the Trustees for consideration.

The following principles for the full submission are designed to ensure that what the Briefing ultimately measures is the explanatory and predictive power of the differing methods of analysis rather than superior knowledge or resources of the contributors:

- Each contributor to share all information sources with every other contributor;
- Each contributor has the same time period in which to prepare a full submission. Late submissions will incur a financial penalty or may be omitted;
- Each contribution to be assessed for quality by IPP's Council of Advisers.

Dissemination

June 2008 – Stage 3: Publication (provisional deadline: 11 September 2008)

The IPP Trustees will appoint the Editor of the Briefing to arrange publication. The Editor has responsibility for the publication process but has no general authority to make substantive alterations to the full submissions unless instructed to do so by the Trustees, on the recommendation of the Council of Advisers. This latter course would not be undertaken except as a last resort to ensure IPP quality standards are maintained. The Editor would also have powers on legal advice from IPP lawyers to make editorial amendments, in consultation with contributors, so as to ensure that no material of an illegal or defamatory nature is included in the published Briefing. Other changes of a stylistic or grammatical nature, or to reduce submissions to the prescribed word length, would be taken at the Editor's sole discretion after consultation with contributors.

In general, publication of the Briefings would be in printed format but also available electronically (thereby reducing postal delays in delivery to some countries.) They would be in English initially but, particularly for regional conflicts where other languages prevail, publication in local languages or translation into the same would be considered.

Marketing of the Briefings, under copyright held by IPP, would be aimed at the following audiences worldwide but particularly in the main areas of conflict:

Primary: decision-makers and senior civil servants in national, inter-governmental and United Nations bodies; policy makers in all relevant political organisations; senior industrialists; and key journalists in a wide range of media organisations. The Briefings would reach this audience via an IPP newsletter and a summary of each contestant's conclusions/method/criteria for judging outcomes. Training sessions could be arranged.

Secondary: organisations and individuals with an interest in security priorities, concerning peaceful and military techniques of conflict resolution, e.g. certain research institutes and educational organisations, scientific and technical bodies, military academies, government departments, political parties, various charities and development groups, companies and trade unions, industrial and professional associations. The Briefings would reach this audience by direct mailing on a subscription basis; seminars and workshops (with all contributors invited); or public lecture series (involving a different contributor and/or peer reviewer on each occasion).

Tertiary: members of the public in a wide cross-section of the communities around the world, especially the marginalised societies of developing countries. To reach this audience an IPP web page with links to related educational organisations is planned.

A link with a commercial publisher would be sought to help ensure effective marketing. Costs of publication would be kept as low as possible in order to ensure that the price of the Briefings makes them accessible to the general public as well as specialist audiences.

Appendix: Sample Output

Briefings on Predicting Peace

The Global 'War on Terrorism' – Where Next?

Terms of Reference

'Following the attacks in the United States of America on 11 September 2001 and the subsequent war in Afghanistan and, more recently, the occupation of Iraq by the USA and its allies what are the broader lessons to be drawn from the global "war on terrorism" in terms of the prospects for future conflict or cooperation between the Great Powers?'

Format

Each contribution would be in the following format and have a strict word limit:

Executive summary - to be divided by the sub-headings shown below

Introduction/Background - historical context (but see Appendices to avoid repetition)

Method of analysing conflict, e.g.

- scenario planning
- realism or power politics, linked to military security
- common security
- games theory
- sociological (models derived from prison control; 'war on drugs', football crowd control; community policing; and riot control)
- economics (e.g. 'Prisoner's Dilemma')/modelling

Analysis – contributor's method of analysis applied to the specific conflict

Conclusions – the contributor's assessment of the prospects for peace or war

Criteria for evaluating the analysis against the subsequent course of events in the conflict

- the contributor to explain how his/her thesis is to be tested/falsified;

Recommendations (optional section) - promotion of the benefits of the contributor's recommended means of conflict resolution;

End Notes (optional though sources to be cited in the text)

Bibliography (standard style)

Appendices

In order to avoid each contribution repeating undisputed facts concerning the region of conflict the IPP Trustees will commission from experts, who are not otherwise involved in contributing to the Briefing, a number of short studies limited to factual evidence or the accurate summary of viewpoints in order to provide the reader with an overview of the historical background and official and unofficial policies & analyses of key issues.