
PRIORITIZATION AND PLANNING CENTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL REHABILITATION OF YUGOSLAVIA

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An adversely impacted environment has always been a result of war. This is particularly so when preceded by years of economic sanctions, as in the case of the recent NATO air campaign in Yugoslavia. In fact, destruction of the environment has long been used as a method of warfare, both defensive and offensive, from ancient times to the present. Witness the "scorched earth" policies instituted during retreats in the World War II Russian campaign and, more recently, the deliberate ignition of hundreds of Kuwaiti oil wells and release of millions of gallons of crude oil into the environment in the 1991 Persian Gulf War. The increased attention to, and awareness of, the environmental impact of modern warfare is due primarily to the ready availability of news reporting apparatus and instant intercontinental communications networks. This awareness will likely become part of most combat operations in the future.

The NATO air campaign in Yugoslavia resulted in damage or destruction to numerous target types and the subsequent release of large quantities of potentially hazardous materials into the environment. These materials, many of which adversely impact the environment, were released into the soil, air, and water resources of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Additionally, important infrastructure was damaged and destroyed resulting in related environmental damage. This includes water and wastewater facilities, energy installations and housing and the resulting impact of refugees. Critical, at this point in time, and the major reason for this Conference, is the concern for the environmental consequences of the air campaign and identifying and implementing possible steps that can be taken to repair the environment of Yugoslavia. The Environmental Export Council (EEC), a program managed by Concurrent Technologies Corporation, Inc. (CTC), is positioned to establish a format with centralized capabilities to help direct the environmental recovery of Yugoslavia.

In this paper we propose that a Prioritization and Planning Center for the Environmental Rehabilitation of Yugoslavia be established. This could be modeled on the USAID EcoLinks Alliance program of which EEC is a partner. At its heart, the Center would possess the latest in environmental modeling/simulation and satellite planning capabilities to help Yugoslavia identify and prioritize environmental projects. In addition, the Center will be supported by an alliance of private sector and NGOs with appropriate expertise and technologies as well as eagerness to help cleanup the environment in Yugoslavia. The Center will offer to the people of Yugoslavia the skill sets and associated technologies necessary to effectively characterize environmental problems, prioritize them for action, identify and assess the most appropriate solutions, and bring together the resources and technologies needed to alleviate the adverse environmental effects of the 1999 Air Campaign. Specifically, the Center would be ideally positioned to prioritize areas of concern through risk assessment, deal with water and wastewater treatment, promote urban rebuilding, encourage transport and infrastructure rebuilding, and mitigate the multitude of other problems identified during the Conference. A detailed description of the proposed Center and discussions of the demonstrated success of the ongoing EcoLinks program will be presented.