

**Speech by H.E. Mr. Søren Gade, Minister of Defence, Denmark. 20 June 2005**

**”Concerted Planning and Action of Civil and Military  
Activities in International Operations”**

Good morning ladies and gentlemen. Like Per, I would like to say a few words of welcome. First of all I am very pleased to see so many fine professionals here in Copenhagen. I am sure that you will enjoy two good days of briefings and discussions.

It is my hope, that the outcome of this seminar will be useful to the further work on CPA in NATO. I hope it will inspire further debate within NATO as well as between NATO and other actors on this very important subject.

Let me say a few word on our own thoughts on CPA.

From a Danish Defence perspective the efforts of the military and the civilian actors in a conflict area are clearly interdependent. We have had more than 10 years of experience showing this.

Our experiences from the Balkans, Afghanistan and Iraq have shown us that the international civilian and military efforts in a crisis area should be better coordinated while at the same time respecting the different roles of the different actors. This is necessary to ensure a sound and stable development of the living conditions for the local populations.

Thus, the overall purpose must be to stabilize and normalize conditions. There is a straight line between improving the social and economic situation in an area and the improvement felt in the security situation. That is why Denmark wants the overall Danish efforts to be better coordinated, so a conflict area can be stabilized and normalized as quickly as possible.

This does not mean that soldiers should be relief workers. The military is not trying take over the role of the NGOs. Soldiers have their core skills as well as the NGOs have theirs. And as a rule, civilian organisations should conduct the humanitarian and reconstruction efforts.

NGO's are doing a very impressive job in crisis areas all around the world. They are helping thousands of victims from floods, earth quakes, crisis, conflict and wars. I truly admire the work carried out by these dedicated men and women. And it's my firm belief that their efforts should be appreciated and supported by us all.

That's why it's important that deployment of troops is coordinated with deployment of civilian personnel. This will help facilitate closer coordination between the Danish military and civilian efforts also from the NGO's. Denmark already has such advisors connected to the troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. During my last visit to Iraq I met with the civilian advisor to our forces in Basra Rural. It was very interesting to hear about her work in identifying projects of immediate value for the local population.

However, at the same time we need to be realistic. The security situation in an area can mean that NGOs are not able to operate in a crisis area. In this case the military force may have to give some specific means of humanitarian and reconstruction support to the local population. However, I would like to emphasize that this is not the core competence of the military force and it will not become so.

Of course, we are not just talking coordination between Danish Defence and NGO's. It is even more important that the national efforts are coordinated in an international environment. NATO has an important part to play here. My theory is that we will accomplish more together, than the mere sum of our parts. This applies nationally as well as internationally; in Denmark and in NATO.

And that is why we are here today. To support NATO in having the proper tools to win the peace. This also means developing our coordination with other actors. Not only in the mission areas, but also at a strategic level.

This does not mean that NATO should develop civil capabilities like the NGO's, the EU or the UN. It means that NATO should be able to assist and support the reconstruction work needed to build stable and peaceful societies.

*Det talte ord gælder*

Sending out troops to international mission is never easy. But once we have made this decision to send out our soldiers, there must be no doubt that we are ready to win. Not only win the war, but also win the peace. This requires the best possible cooperation between the civilian and military efforts. I'm sure that this seminar will be a valuable step in the right direction. Thank you.