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## Norwegian People's Aid Emphasizes Cooperation as Core of Demining Efforts

Kirk St. Amant Center for International Stabilization and Recovery at JMU (CISR)

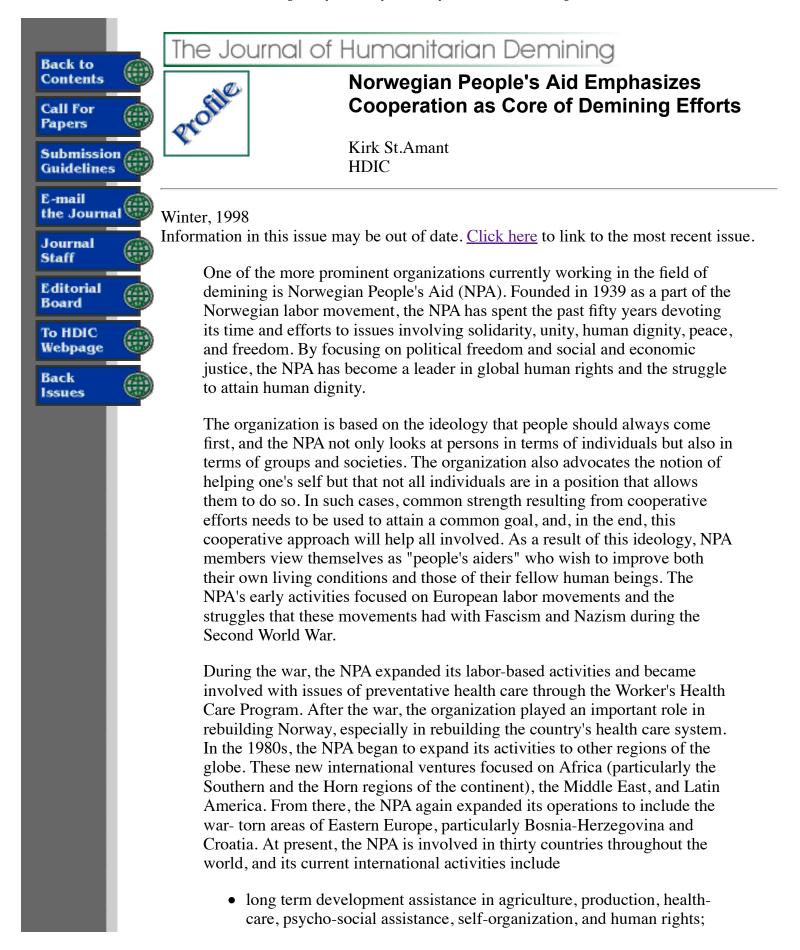
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- emergency assistance that includes rehabilitation, medical aid, and mobile clinics;
- mine-clearance and mine-awareness programs; and
- conflict prevention and resolution.

The NPA has also become involved with violence against women and refugee-related activities.

The NPA first became involved in the process of demining in 1992 when it was attempting to map the northwestern regions of Cambodia. Throughout this process, the NPA took a two- pronged approach that reflected its philosophy of people helping themselves and people helping each other, for not only did it actively pursue demining activities, but it also taught the Cambodians how to undertake such operations on their own. As a result of these activities, Cambodia is on the verge of taking over and running its own demining program.

Since 1992, the NPA has also become involved in mining activities in other areas including Mozambique, Angola, and Iraq. In all these areas, the NPA has continued to use its philosophy of self-help and cooperation to demine these areas and to teach inhabitants how to establish their own demining activities. For example, in Mozambique, the NPA trains deminers and has established a center for training mine detecting dogs and their handlers. In the case of Angola, the NPA has concentrated on clearing the main road between the cities of Luanda and Malange, has begun mapping minefields in the country, and has initiated and extensive mine awareness campaign. The NPA's Iraq activities similarly focus on self-reliance by teaching demining and advanced first aid skills to the inhabitants of the Iraqi province of Kurdistan.

As a result of these various international demining activities, the NPA has developed a complete program to meet the many challenges that countries with serious mine problems might have to face. As with other NPA demining activities, this complete program is designed to begin the demining process and to train local authorities in aspects of demining, and the program is designed in a way that allows local authorities to take over a country's demining activities after five years of cooperative demining activities. This self-reliant demining process focuses on six areas that can all be easily adapted to meet the conditions of any country. These six areas are

- mapping mine fields,
- training and organizing local de-miners,
- beginning the demining process in an area,
- conducting mine awareness programs,
- developing new methods for demining, and
- lobbying local and international lawmakers for a total ban on antipersonnel mines.

In addition to these demining activities, the NPA also maintains a website entitled "Landmines-The Silent Killers," located at <u>http://www.npaid.no/mines/</u>. This site contains a collection of articles and information on landmines and demining activities. For further information about the NPA and its activities, visit the NPA web site at <u>http://www.npaid.no/npaid/npa.html</u>.