

the central question that I think we must solve, and I think the ACRI is really doing a wonderful job.

From our part in Senegal, we have a professional army in a democratic country. We train our military also to understand and use English language instead of our French language, official language.

I will sum up the characteristics of our armed forces before discussing the U.S. Cooperation through the ACRI, the ACSS and the Operation Focus Relief.

Our army is coming from the French Army after our independence in the 1960's, and all our officers are educated in military academies mostly, training for the army, Ecole Dallaire where I was trained, and Ecole Navale, all here in Colorado Springs where we bring people from the Air Force, West Point and Annapolis. This means that when the country is democratic we don't think about having a coup d'etat because it is too complicated for a military brain. So we don't have the time to take the power.

And there is a separation of power of branches in our country. You are not the head of the military because you are the nephew or the son of the President but because of your own merit on the ground. That is very important.

Senegal, because of its professionalism, provided a lot of troops, more than 15,000, during the last four decades for peacekeeping. We went to the Congo, to Katanga. We went to the Middle East, Egypt and all those countries. We went to Chad. Of course, we went to Liberia; and we were a part of Desert Storm where we lost almost a hundred soldiers.

So I think that the military—what we should do with ACRI, I don't think we need the military from the U.S., the GIs to come and do the job for us. We have to be responsible of our military operations, provided our friends like the U.S. Could provide equipment and training but even the intelligence operation. That is very important. So I think that the ACRI is doing a wonderful job.

The purpose to work in partnership with Africa, Europe and the United Nations and other friendly countries to promote regional stability in Africa through engagement using carefully harmonized U.S. Programs and initiatives, that is a national security document in 1999. The same document said it is in the U.S. Interest to support and promote collective capability among the Africa States.

The objectives are training a minimum of 12,000 peacekeepers; build effective command and control; provide commonality and interoperability; enhance international, regional and subregional peacekeeping capacity in Africa; training in HIV/AIDS awareness;

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