

Adams, D.B. A proposed international symposium to draft a statement on violence. Aggressive Behavior, 1985, 11:136-137 (Abstract).

Workshop Discussion about a proposed International Symposium to Draft a Statement on Violence.

United Nations Committee of ISRA.

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Given the pressing problem of collective violence in today's world, and especially the devastation of many conventional wars and the threat of a thermonuclear war, and given the confusion about the relation of collective to individual violence, it has been proposed that an appropriate body meet as a Symposium to draft a "Statement on Violence" clarifying that relationship. ISRA (or its members as individuals) with its aim of exchanging "scientific information concerning the destructive and constructive aspects of aggression" seems an appropriate and neutral vehicle to initiate such a proposal. UNESCO, with its aim of advancing "mutual knowledge and understanding of peoples," and promoting "international peace" seems an appropriate body to which such a proposal might be addressed. It is not the prerogative of ISRA to design the agenda of such a Symposium or to prejudge its conclusions. However, at this Turku meeting, we have a uniquely competent, multi-disciplinary, multi-national gathering of researchers ("experts") on violence and aggression. Our discussion can indicate the strengths and weaknesses of the various approaches to this complex topic. Therefore, the proposed agenda includes: 1) A brief history of the proposal; 2) A brief history of UNESCO's work in this area, with emphasis upon the Statement on Race and the uses that have been made of it; 3) Consideration of the potential usefulness of a Statement on Violence; 4) What scientific disciplines should be represented in such a Symposium; and 5) How can the talent within ISRA be most effectively mobilized to contribute if such a Symposium is convened? UNESCO observers have been invited.