Oral Presentation O7.1

THE WORLD'S POLICEMAN TAKES A COFFEE BREAK
THE CHANGE IN U.S. POLICY REGARDING PEACEKEEPING POLICY IN AFRICA

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Due to intrastate conflict in Africa, millions have suffered and died over the course of the past decade. During this time, it has been shown that intrastate conflict tends to spill over borders with the possibility of destabilizing entire regions and creating threats to the national security interests of the United States. Such conflict also tends to result in humanitarian crises, but since 1993 has not warranted military intervention by the United States. Since the military intervention in Somalia the United States has changed its policy regarding peacekeeping/peace enforcement in Africa from one of unilateral intervention and military cooperation with the United Nations to one where it can stand safely on the sidelines while conflict occurs. This change in policy is evident when looking at the United States' response to the outbreak of violence in Liberia in 2003.

The United States, instead of deploying armed forces directly to Liberia, withheld support while the humanitarian and security situations worsened within the country. This research explains how the Somali conflict serves as a justification to step back from African peacekeeping; it is merely an excuse to avoid direct involvement in an African conflict. Furthermore, this policy is detrimental to the United States' interests as well as to the people caught in conflict in African countries. The United States' policy regarding humanitarian intervention is driven by strategic, rather than moral, interests.