

## ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRE FOR STRATEGIC RESEARCH

January-May 1996

On 18 and 19 January, the Centre participated in and contributed a paper to a seminar on 'Legal Assistance to Bosnia-Herzegovina'. This was one of the projects agreed by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) mobilization group to assist Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Istanbul-based Aybay Foundation for Legal Studies organized and hosted the meeting in Ankara. Jurists and experts from Bosnia-Herzegovina and OIC countries as well as from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and the Council of Europe discussed how best the Dayton Agreement can be implemented.

March was a busy month. The Centre joined the Foreign Policy Institute (Ankara) and the Research Institute of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik (Bonn) in organizing a Turkish-German round table meeting, 3-5 March, in Ankara. Another similar conference organized with the Foreign Policy Institute was the Turkish-Romanian round table Meeting, 14-15 March, in Ankara.

Again in March, the Executive Director of the Centre, together with scholars from Ankara and Istanbul participated in a seminar entitled 'Turkish-Arab Relations' organized by the Arab Thought Forum and supported by the Freiderich Ebert Foundation, in Amman, 18-19 March. The invitation was extended to both the Centre and the Middle East & Balkan Studies Foundation, in Istanbul. The fruitful discussions on a variety of 'hot files' - as one Jordanian paper put it - was essentially due to the constructive and inspiring introductory address by His Highness Prince El Hassan Bin Talal of Jordan. The scholars considered the core issues in a future-oriented spirit rather than dwelling upon past resentments, emphasizing fresh constructive thinking in developing relations as well as the consolidation of common interests.

Between 29 and 31 March, the Centre organized its first international conference, on the topic of 'Russia and the Newly Independent States.' It was held in Antalya with the participation of specialists on the subject from the USA, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, France, Ukraine, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan and Turkey. It was one of those fruitful meetings where specialists enlighten specialists. Mr. John Roper, former director of the West European Union's Institute of Strategic Studies, made the introductory speech. The second day's keynote speech was made by Prof. Evgeni Mikhailoviç Kozhonin, the Director of the Russian Strategic Studies Institute, Moscow. The conference worked on the questions of Russia's role in European security, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

On May 31st, the Centre organized a conference for the United Nations Secretary General His Excellency Boutros Boutros-Ghali, on the occasion of his visit to Ankara, where the Secretary General gave a very inspiring speech on "Globalisation".