



Independent Diplomat

a diplomatic service for those who need it most

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Summary

1. Independent Diplomat (ID) grows apace, now with representatives in Brussels, New York and London. With offices already in London and Brussels, we shall soon open a full office in New York City and plan further office openings later this year and in 2008. The United Nations Foundation has become our newest institutional supporter.
2. The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is ID's newest client.

ID's Development

3. Independent Diplomat continues to grow to meet the considerable demand for independent advice in diplomacy and foreign policy. As the world's first and only non-profit diplomatic advisory group, we have been stunned by the demand for our services from small or transitional states, marginalised political groups and even established governments, UN bodies and NGOs. It's clear that a great many people feel excluded from the world's diplomatic system and value impartial advice on how best to penetrate it. In our efforts to help those marginalised groups engage more efficiently in diplomatic processes, we only help those committed to democracy, international law and respect for human rights.
4. ID now has representatives in Brussels, London and New York, who draw on a world-wide network of experts, partner organisations and *pro-bono* partners (including several large international large firms) to provide the best possible advice for our clients. Our aim is to establish offices to cover the major multilateral diplomatic centres; we are opening our newest office in New York City in the autumn and hope to announce plans for our next office later in the year. To contact our offices, please click [here](#) for more details.
5. The United Nations Foundation has decided to become a core funder of Independent Diplomat, joining the Open Society Institute, the Oak Foundation and the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust as our principal donors. The Network for Social Change, a group of private philanthropists, has also given ID a grant for our work with Somaliland. We are in discussion with a select group of other potential donors, including sympathetic governments, to support our work.

ID Projects

6. We are pleased to announce the recent signature of an agreement for Independent Diplomat to advise the **Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus**. After the 2004 referendum on the Annan Plan to reunify the island failed, due to Greek Cypriot opposition, the international community promised to lift the isolation of the Turkish Cypriots, but has delivered very little on this commitment in the subsequent three years. In the meantime the latest UN process, which started in July 2006, has lost momentum. ID will assist the TRNC leadership on these and other issues.
7. Our work in **Kosovo** has intensified as the final status process reaches the UN Security Council. ID has been providing up-to-date analysis and intelligence for the Kosovo negotiating team (which includes representatives of both government and opposition parties, and is coordinated by an independent journalist), on the Ahtisaari proposals, the positions of the major players, and the possible outcomes of the process.
8. **Somaliland** has remained stable while the security situation in southern Somalia has deteriorated in the wake of Ethiopia's intervention to remove Islamists from power. ID is working with Somaliland's Foreign Minister to implement a diplomatic strategy to bring increased international attention to Somaliland and the need to resolve Somaliland's status. Drawing on ID's support, Somaliland will be pressing for further African Union engagement with the Somaliland issue at the forthcoming AU Summit in Accra, and continuing to raise awareness of its needs, and potential as a partner, at the UN Security Council, European Union and Somalia Contact Group.
9. Independent Diplomat continues to advise the **Polisario Front** (the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic) on diplomatic strategy. The Western Sahara dispute is at a significant juncture as the UN Secretary-General's Personal Envoy is about to convene negotiations involving the Polisario and Morocco in which Polisario's demands for self-determination in the form of a referendum will clash with Morocco's proposal to give autonomy under Moroccan sovereignty. ID is advising the Polisario on diplomacy on the Western Sahara issue. We have also coordinated an important year-long project on legal aspects of Morocco's continuing occupation.
10. We are in discussion with a number of potential clients in Europe and the Americas about new projects and expect to make announcements shortly.

Media

11. The following is a selection from the worldwide coverage of Independent Diplomat.

Independent Diplomat in the press:

- [“The Saturday Profile: Rebellious Diplomat Finds Work as Envoy of the Voiceless”](#), by Nicholas Wood, published in *The New York Times* (US), 3 March 2007.
- [“The Education of Carne Ross: From Outrage To Opportunity”](#), by Ludovic Hood, published in the *Foreign Service Journal* (US – American Foreign Service Association), 84-5, May 2007.
- [“Eksdiplomat vil avvikle diplomatiet”](#), by Hilde Harbo, Published in *Aftenposten* (Norway), 28 Feb 2007.
- [“ONG contra el interés de Estado”](#), by Iñigo Gurruchaga, published in *El Correo* (Spain), March 2007.
- [“Le Maroc a bloqué le référendum avec la complicité de parties influentes, dont la France”](#), published by *El Moudjahid* (Algeria), 28 February 2007.

Newspaper articles by ID staff members:

- [“In the Matrix, You Mess Up Foreign Policy”](#), by Carne Ross, Published in *The Sunday Times* (UK), 18 February 2007.
- [“Only the Closest Encounter with the Facts Will Do Now”](#), by Carne Ross, published in *The Guardian* (UK), 19 February 2007.

- “[Music in the Security Council](#)”, by Carne Ross, published on *Opendemocracy.net* (UK), 26 February 2007.
- “[Independent Diplomat: Diplomatieberatung als Konfliktprävention](#)” by Christina Kiel, published in *Auswärtiger Dienst* (Germany – Federal Foreign Office internal publication), December 2006.

Television interviews:

- “[HARDtalk](#)”, with Carne Ross, broadcast on *BBC World* (World ex-UK) and *BBC News 24* (UK), 5 February 2007.
 - “[Situation Room](#)”, with Carne Ross, broadcast on *CNN* (US), 4 May 2007. (Full transcript, please scroll down for discussion with Carne Ross)
 - “[Lying abroad](#)” (Part III), with Carne Ross, broadcast on *BBC Radio 4* (UK), 10 June 2007.
12. Carne Ross’ book, “Independent Diplomat: Dispatches from an Unaccountable Elite” was published by Hurst & Co (UK) in March and Cornell University Press (US) in April. You can see reviews by [Gideon Rachman](#) for the Financial Times (UK), [Christopher Meyer](#) for the Sunday Times (UK) and [Anne Penketh](#) for the Independent (UK).