

## PROBLEM 2

### AN ATLAS OF APPROACHES

#### Terrorism

#### Worksheet on Atlas of Approaches

Which facts to consider, whose theories to believe? Different disciplines use different criteria for deciding what is important. In their analysis of a given state of affairs, they use different hypotheses and have different objectives in mind. If taken together, different points of view can make for some confusion; considered separately, they can provide an illuminating, if somewhat limited, way of getting a handle on a problem. Our purpose is to use a range of academic and professional points of view to give us not only a better understanding of a conflict, but also to generate a variety of resources for coping with that conflict.

For this one-page worksheet, select three different disciplines or professions that you believe may offer insights or ideas that are particularly relevant to the problems associated with the problem of terrorism. These might be academic disciplines like history, economics, psychology, geography, political science, anthropology or sociology, or they might be professional points of view such as those of a military officer, a lawyer, a journalist, a merchant, a diplomat, an educator, or a banker-investor.

From the point of view of each of those three disciplines or professions, write out one or more short answers to each of the following questions:

- Diagnosis:                      What is wrong?
- Approach:                      What might be done?
- Players:                        Who are some potentially important actors who might be able to do something about it?
- Variables:                      What are some manipulable variables that those actors might be able to change?
- Reasons:                        What are some hypotheses or working theories about the good that might be accomplished by changing one or more of those variables?
- What approaches might this discipline propose for dealing with this conflict?

This tool is intended to help us understand a conflict by looking at the partial truths and illuminating distortions provided by different disciplines and professions. If you would like additional guidance, Charts 10A and 10B in *Coping With International Conflict* (draft edition) provide two worked examples.