context of an operation, thus we must have a clear context of CIMIC.

THE CONTEXT OF CIMIC

The use of CIMIC falls into two categories, first-that of national emergencies and aid to civil-power operations and second-that of international crises. For the purpose of a foreign policy tool, this discussion will only focus on the international aspects of CIMIC. When a crisis occurs somewhere, there is a high probability that at some level there are national or international NGOs, private voluntary organizations (PVOs) and other agencies already in place working on development and/or aid related issues. As the crisis develops and security becomes an issue, some agencies withdraw completely from the region while others cut-back on long-term initiatives or move towards relief efforts.

Should the situation deteriorate completely and the national government asks for outside support, this support generally entails the intervention of security forces in the form of some sort of military peacekeeping or observer force. In general, the military is the last actor to come on the ground, and the one that is the least informed of the general situation. Given that each operation has unique conditions which create unforseen problems in planning, coordination, communication and implementation of objectives, the military will always be at a disadvantage at the beginning and possibly throughout the operation. Under these types of circumstances, though the objectives of the military and the NGO organizations are the same— stabilization of the situation— both have different reasons for becoming involved (see Table 1).