

**Observation 5:** Almost all troop-contributing nations, including Canada, made the presence of US ground forces a condition of their participation.

There were both military and political reasons why US participation was seen as necessary. The United States has unparalleled military capability, including the strategic airlift and intelligence capabilities which are essential to this type of operation. US forces are also uniquely capable of rapid and robust reaction to contingencies; many potential participants have cited this as a reason why they insisted on US participation in the Zaire operation. Politically, the presence of US ground forces encourages continued American commitment in the operations.

The requirement for US participation also provides some insight into the future of similar operations. It is unlikely that another nation will soon rival American military capability, and increasingly so as governments around the world are cutting their military budgets. It is likely that, for the foreseeable future, multinational military coalitions formed for Chapter VII operations will require some kind of large power, and likely US military participation, with all the concomitant political difficulties.

**Recommendation 5:** Smaller powers should investigate the development of mechanisms which facilitate the participation of large powers in multinational coalitions, while mitigating their political influence on the military operations.

**Recommendation 5a:** Smaller powers should discuss the feasibility of pooling resources to develop some common assets, such as intelligence, essential logistics and sustainability, which might reduce the dependence on the United States in certain situations.

**Recommendation 5b:** We must recognize, however, that the US is, at present, essential to almost any Chapter VII operation. For that reason, successful leadership of such a mission by a smaller power must involve understanding and influencing the political process in Washington.

**Observation 6:** The fluidity of the situation on the ground emphasized the importance of good intelligence. It also became clear that intelligence can be used as a political tool.