

- ♦ all states be encouraged to cooperate with any future investigation;
- ♦ the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights strengthen its country Field Office and set up provincial branches;
- ♦ the international community help the DRC to establish a judicial institution staffed by competent, independent and properly paid personnel who apply internationally recognized rules of procedure; the institution renounce all referrals to courts of special jurisdiction; and
- ♦ the international community support programmes for the rehabilitation of victims, without discrimination on ethnic, political or other grounds, and support programmes intended to reduce ethnic tensions.

The responses of the governments of the DR Congo and Rwanda to the report of the Investigative Team are contained in documents S/1998/582 and S/1998/583 respectively.

### Statements by the President

During 1998 the Security Council agreed texts upon two statements by the President. In the July statement (S/PRST/1998/20, July 1998) the Council, *inter alia*: condemned the massacres, other atrocities and violations of international humanitarian law committed in DR Congo, and especially its eastern provinces, including crimes against humanity and other violations; recognized the work of the Secretary-General's Investigative Team in documenting some of these violations, in spite of the fact that the Team was not allowed to carry out its mission fully and without hindrance; reaffirmed its commitment to the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the states of the Great Lakes region; recognized the necessity of investigating further the massacres, other atrocities and violations of international humanitarian law and of prosecuting those responsible; deplored the delay in the administration of justice; noted the stated willingness of the government to try any of its nationals who are guilty of or were implicated in the alleged massacres; expressed its readiness to consider, as necessary, additional steps to ensure that the perpetrators of the massacres, other atrocities and violations of international humanitarian law are brought to justice; expressed support for UN and other international activities to reduce ethnic tensions and promote national reconciliation in the region; and, welcomed the OAU decision to establish the International Panel of Eminent Personalities to Investigate the Genocide in Rwanda and the Surrounding Events

In the August statement (S/PRST/1998/26, August 1998), the Council expressed deep concern about the conflict in the DRC and alarm at the plight of the civilian population throughout the country; called for a peaceful solution to the conflict, including an immediate ceasefire, the withdrawal of all foreign forces, and the initiation of a peaceful process of political dialogue with a view to national reconciliation; stated that the problems of the DRC must be solved on the basis of a process of all-inclu-

sive national reconciliation which fully respects the equality and harmony of all ethnic groups and leads to the holding of democratic, free and fair elections as soon as possible; urged all parties to respect and protect human rights and respect humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols of 1977; condemned reported summary executions, torture, harassment and detention of civilians based on their ethnic origin, the recruitment and use of child soldiers, the killing or wounding of combatants who had laid down their weapons, hate propaganda, sexual violence and other abuses by any side; called for the protection of the civilian population and recalled the unacceptability of the destruction of objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, and of using cuts in the electricity and water supply as a weapon against the population; reaffirmed that all persons who commit or order the commission of grave breaches of international human rights and humanitarian instruments are individually responsible in respect of such breaches; called for safe and unhindered access for humanitarian agencies to all those in need and unrestricted access by the ICRC to all detainees; urged all parties to guarantee the safety and security of UN and humanitarian personnel; and, reaffirmed the importance of holding an international conference on peace, security and development in the Great Lakes region under the auspices of the UN and the OAU.

### FIELD OPERATIONS

The headquarters for the Human Rights Field Office in DR Congo (HRFOC) is located in Kinshasa. Mr. Frej Fenniche, Chief of Office, Av. Colonel Mondjiba, 15.740, Kinshasa/Ngaliema, République démocratique du Congo; Phone: (243) 88-00-886; 12-33-438; Fax: (243) 88-01-826; e-mail: fenniche@ic.cd.

Following a series of negotiations and an agreement signed with the former government of Zaire in August 1996, HRFOC was established in December 1996. The main task of the Office is to monitor the situation of human rights and advise the authorities, as well as non-governmental organizations, on international human rights standards. Following the installation of President Kabila's government and the resumption of the work of other agencies, OHCHR-DRC resumed its activities in June 1997. As of the end of July 1998, the Office was staffed by a Chief of Office, one Human Rights Officer, and an Administrative and Financial Assistant who are assisted by national experts and personnel.

The programme of activities was adapted to meet the new political situation in the country and has, as its main objectives: following closely the general human rights situation throughout the country and reporting abuses that may occur; providing information and analysis to the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights; assisting the government to reform and strengthen democratic institutions and the rule of law; contributing to the training of law-enforcement officials; and advising, training and assisting human rights NGOs