

CHAPTER 2: THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE TRADITIONAL APPROACH TO CONFLICT RESOLUTION

2.1 Four Steps to Peace

Sidney Bailey asserts that, with the creation of the United Nations, within which the Security Council has the prime responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, the tendency arose to view the terms ceasefire, truce and armistice as representing a sequence, three successive steps from war to peace.¹⁸ According to this notion, a ceasefire is defined as:

. . . a suspension of acts of violence by military and paramilitary forces, usually resulting from the intervention of a third party. It is a preliminary and provisional step, providing a breathing space so that a subsidiary organ of the Council can negotiate with the parties a truce of a more detailed and durable kind.

For Bailey, the main elements of a ceasefire are: the parties in conflict issue ceasefire orders to their troops; the parties are free to adjust but not augment their forces; the parties will confer on any change in disposition of their forces; there will be a demarcation of a de facto ceasefire line and perhaps a buffer zone; and there will be military observers to supervise and observe the ceasefire and report violations to the Security Council.

A truce, the second step on this road to peace, prescribes: The reduction of regular and irregular forces and the withdrawal of those forces behind a demilitarized area; arrangements for civil administration and policing of the demilitarized zone; the restoration of normal transportation; the repatriation of prisoners of war, hostages and political prisoners; and measures for guaranteeing human rights and free political activity.

An armistice is separate from the first two steps of this process since it results from direct negotiations between the parties in conflict about specifically military matters. An

¹⁸ Sidney Dawson Bailey, *How Wars End*, Vol.I, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1982, p. 38.