

## PAPER 5

### HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND PEACEKEEPING: FUTURE ROLES, FUTURE PROSPECTS

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*(Note: This chapter is based on RUSI Whitehall Paper No 48 by the same author)*

#### SUMMARY

Two contrasting concepts have shaped attempts to intervene in international crises during the last century, both of them responses to the need to intervene in international crisis. These are peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance. For the greater part of the century the two forms of intervention have developed largely in isolation from each other, but the crises of the 1990s brought these two strands more closely together. In many instances peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance worked well together, but there are also occasions when the relationship went wrong. Particularly difficult were situations when a negotiated peace broke down and organisations found themselves, through no fault of their own, working together in circumstances of great danger and confused objectives.

The central argument of this chapter is that the alliance between peacekeepers and those involved in humanitarian assistance will play a very significant role in the international community's response to the crises which will inevitably arise in the early decades of this century. We therefore need to look for ways to improve the alliance and to understand and mitigate the inevitable tensions within it. It may also help to establish clearer identities for each side of the alliance, because the blurring of their respective roles is often a major source of concern.