

It was contended, on the one hand, that the United States is the only country in the world capable of mounting the operations required by the extended definition of peacekeeping. On the other hand, participants were reminded that the U.S. has no intention of providing mercenaries for the world.

## 7. Sovereignty

A number of participants alluded to the developing view within the international community that governments ought not be allowed to mistreat their citizens, deprive them of basic human rights or resist international aid on the basis of national sovereignty. The question was posed: "Who decides when a country's sovereignty can be breached?" Participants were reminded that it is only the media that makes us aware of gross excesses on the part of governments.

## REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

In the first session after lunch, Ronald Gould, Assistant Chief Electoral Officer, Dr. Chris Giannou of the Canadian Red Cross and Commissioner (Retired) Robert Simmonds of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police spoke of their experiences as specialists involved in the non-military aspects of strengthening peace and security.

Mr. Gould pointed out that from 1984 to 1989, Elections Canada had taken part in 17 electoral missions. From January 1990 to February 1993, the number had increased to 116. Tasks included not only election observation, but also constitutional development, drafting of election law, pre-election evaluation and election needs assessment. Canada has also contributed significantly to the drafting and implementation of election procedures in Cambodia. As a result of these activities, Canada is regarded as a world leader in democratic development.

Dr. Giannou spoke of the ambiguity of humanitarian work in conflict zones. He emphasized the importance of early warning but added that in the absence of great media attention, early warning signs tend to be unheeded by governments and the United Nations. He spoke of the need to work with existing institutions, relating the success the International Committee of the Red Cross has had in Somalia by working through the Red Crescent.

He cautioned that some believe humanitarian aid itself might prolong a conflict by contributing to an increase in insecurity. It is also the opinion of some that humanitarian aid is akin to neo-colonialism.

Commissioner Simmonds spoke of his experience in resettlement of displaced persons as a member of the Commonwealth Observer Mission in South Africa. He explained that resettlement is a long process that must begin with members of the international team becoming fully acquainted with local conditions and traditions.