

representatives of both the government and the UTO, the Commission worked relatively independently of each, though it was reliant on the government for resources and transportation.

The UN also operated a military observer mission in order to support the work of the Joint Commission in monitoring the cease-fire. The United Nation's Observer Mission in Tajikistan (UNMOT) was established by the UN Security Council on December 16, 1994. This was done in accordance with the wishes of the Tajik government and the UTO who, in the cease-fire agreement, had made its implementation contingent upon the deployment of a UN observer force.

The Commonwealth of Independent States also deployed its own peacekeeping force in Tajikistan following the outbreak of hostilities. It was comprised of soldiers from Russia, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan. The CIS force was intended to help stabilize the situation within the Republic and ensure the separation of government and UTO forces on the southern border. Russian forces were also deployed along the Tajik-Afghan border in order to repel infiltration by UTO rebels. Both the CIS force and the border forces were primarily intended to deter a Taleban move north from Afghanistan. UTO attacks within central Tajikistan were left in the hands of the Tajik military.

#### *Demobilization:*

One of the Protocols signed by the parties in the build-up to the final peace accord concerned military issues. This agreement set out a plan for the demobilization, disarmament and reintegration of UTO units during a transitional period which was to follow the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Accord. The Protocol provisions are to be implemented by the Commission on National Reconciliation and a joint central review board comprised of both government and UTO representatives. This demobilization process is to be supervised by UNMOT.

#### *Demining:*

There have been some limited initiatives undertaken towards demining parts of the country. In late 1996 a UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs assessment mission was sent to Tajikistan in order to gather information on the situation concerning mines. As a result a Mine Action Centre was established which is capable of dealing with mine related activities such as the establishment, with the Government and UTO, of a Mine Action plan. This is intended to develop and manage a mine information system, as well as coordinate and support mine-awareness training.

#### **Social Reconstruction:**

##### *Humanitarian Relief:*

In addition to the outbreak of civil war in 1992, Tajikistan was hit by severe flooding which only served to worsen its humanitarian crisis. In response to both the natural and man-made chaos a variety of initiatives were undertaken to cope with the large numbers of refugees and displaced persons. Russian, Byelorussia, Iran, Turkey, the US, and the EU all contributed significant sums of money for humanitarian efforts as well as practical relief and