

and the UTO and has provided facilities for the peace talks.

These reconciliation efforts have been complemented by the mediation efforts of the UN. In October 1992 the UN Secretary General was asked by the Acting-President of the Tajik Republic to despatch a good offices mission to the country. Three months later this UN deployment was expanded to include a unit of political, humanitarian, and military officers who were assigned the task of monitoring the situation on the ground. The UN efforts at conflict resolution were led by the Secretary General's Special Envoy who was appointed in April 1993. Immediately he began dialogue with the two main parties as well as with the governments of surrounding states. These efforts assisted in convening the first round of inter-Tajik talks in Moscow in early 1994.

Following this initial attempt at political dialogue the Tajik government and the UTO held a further four rounds of UN mediated talks. In mid-September 1994 agreement was reached on a temporary cease-fire as well as details for the formation of a Joint Commission to monitor the cease-fire. Subsequent agreement was slow to precipitate as most of the following talks revolved around potential venues for negotiations instead of constructive engagement of pressing political issues. It was not until late December 1995 that substantial progress was made on political issues, which resulted in the signing of a number of Protocols covering the issues of refugees, military forces, and national reconciliation. These Protocols came into force with the signing of a Comprehensive Peace Accord on June, 27, 1997.

The UN has been at the centre of the negotiating process, with the UN Special Envoy chairing the majority of talks as well as engaging in intense shuttle diplomacy between the Tajik government, the UTO, and numerous regional capitals. When confronted by a lack of progress the UN has either expressed its dissatisfaction and withdrawn its support temporarily, leaving the parties to demonstrate their continued commitment to reconciliation or, in other cases, the UN has intensified its efforts and despatched a UN Under-Secretary General to assist the Special Envoy to get the talks back on track. A significant amount of the UN's energy was directed towards the governments of surrounding states, such as Moscow and Kabul, which were then able to place direct political pressure on either the Tajik government or the UTO to reach agreement.

The UN has been assisted in its mediation efforts by other international organizations. The OSCE deployed a seven member mission to Tajikistan to facilitate dialogue and confidence-building among the political forces in the country as well as to promote respect for human rights. The OSCE mission often served as an observer at the various rounds of negotiations between the two parties. A similar role of observation was played by the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

### **Physical Security:**

#### *Cease-fire:*

As part of the agreement reached between the parties on a cease-fire in mid-September 1994, a Joint Commission was established with the responsibility for monitoring the implementation of the cease-fire and investigating reported violations of it. Comprised of