

towns. I was asked to indicate how I proposed to carry out the task if the Security Council passed a resolution to that effect. My response was that before I could even begin to formulate any consideration of the requirement, it was essential that I should know what was implied by the term "safe area". A brief silence followed my query, and I was then asked to indicate what my own interpretation of the term was. My response in essence was that:

a "safe area" is a geographically delineated area which will be protected by the deployment of troops in tactical positions all around and within it; no weaponry would be permitted inside it except for that held by authorised military and police personnel from the international force; no military actions would be permitted to be undertaken from inside towards the outside; nor would any military actions be allowed against such designated areas from the outside.

I was then asked to indicate my assessment of troops for undertaking such a task within the framework of my interpretation of the term. I reverted after some deliberation, that I would require about a division plus for Sarajevo, a division minus each for Bihac and Tuzla, a brigade each for Goradze and Foca, and about a brigade in reserve; that is, about four divisions totaling 50,000 to 60,000 additional troops, to effectively undertake the task¹.

In 1994, the Security Council did in fact pass a resolution declaring these areas, as well as Srebrenica, as "safe areas", without providing adequate troops and equipment for the purpose to UNPROFOR; with the disastrous results that followed at Srebrenica.

(iii) **Escort of humanitarian convoys**

The escort of humanitarian convoys raises particular problems for the relationship between humanitarian and military activities. The following problems were faced by troops under my command in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina:

- An escorted convoy comes up against a roadblock manned by one of the belligerent factions, who claim they have no prior intimation about the convoy, or that they have no orders from their superior authorities. They are not offensive or unpleasant, but just plain stubborn. What does the commander (who is a sergeant or lieutenant or captain) do? Does he fire at the persons manning the roadblock or charge through it in his armored personnel carrier?
- In the process he may cause the detonation of an explosive device either at the site of the road block, or a kilometer or two down the road; this may result in casualties to his troops and/or to the civilians providing the aid effort. He may even provoke a firefight with the party at the roadblock; with resultant casualties to his troops or the civilians in his convoy, not to mention casualties to the belligerent party. What does an escort