

Herzegovina to provide military escorts to international relief convoys, to keep open Sarajevo airport for the airlift of relief supplies, and to create six "safe areas" for the protection of civilians. The humanitarian mission of UNPROFOR and of relief agencies has been repeatedly obstructed by all parties to the conflict, in violation of applicable principles of international humanitarian law.

In Serbia, minority groups such as the Hungarians of Vojvodina, the Muslims of the Sandzak region and the Albanians of Kosovo all feel themselves to be at risk from the Serbian majority. The Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) established Long-Term Missions in each of these areas, focussing on preventive diplomacy and conflict prevention. Regrettably, Belgrade refused to renew the mandate of the Missions and they were obliged to withdraw from Serbia in July 1993. There is some evidence that the human rights situation in Kosovo and the other regions has deteriorated since the CSCE missions' departure.

Mr. Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights, has submitted five reports on the human rights situation in the former Yugoslavia. His latest report of November 17, 1993 draws particular attention to the continuation of "ethnic cleansing" in Bosnia-Herzegovina, including mass expulsions, military attacks on civilians, abuse of women and assaults on "safe areas". He also notes that the Bosnian Serb authorities have not yet permitted an investigation of the human rights situation in the territories under their control.

Mr. Mazowiecki also expresses concern about violations of international human rights standards and humanitarian law in Croatia, where more than 500,000 people have been displaced by previous fighting or been victims of ethnic cleansing.

In Serbia, the Special Rapporteur is concerned about the use of brutal and excessive force by the police throughout that republic. He also highlights restrictions imposed on the freedom of assembly and association, freedom of expression and the media, and increased institutional and non-institutional pressure against members of different ethnic communities. The denial of equal and fair media access for opposition parties during the recent Serbian elections campaign has cast doubt on the fairness of those elections.

Mr. Mazowiecki acknowledges that the human rights situation in Montenegro is better than in Serbia, although he does note some concerns about the judicial process and the lack of non-State-run radio and television.

The former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia faces the threat of unrest spilling over from Serbia, particularly if there is an outbreak of violence in Kosovo. Despite this, the domestic human rights situation is relatively good and the government is working to improve the republic's record.

The Republic of Slovenia was spared much of the fighting that has taken place in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina and, blessed with few ethnic issues, has been able to build a positive human rights record. It is seeking to become a market-oriented democracy in the Western tradition with ties to the international community, particularly in Western Europe.