

¹ 'It is important' said the report of a 1998 UN forum in New York on the role of SRSGs 'that the nature and scope of an SRSG's role be clearly articulated to avoid confusion either within or outside the UN' The SRSG's role was the subject of a high level forum in New York in July 1998, attended by Kofi Annan himself and by eight serving or past SRSGs. The resultant report 'Command from the Saddle: Managing United Nations peace-building missions' was published by the forum's organisers, the Oslo-based FAFO Institute for Applied Social Science, in early 1999.

² John Mackinlay has, for example, written of the excellent cooperation between peacekeepers and NGOs in Bosnia in Multinational Division (South West) in 1997: "The Stabilisation Force military infrastructure had become more pervasive than that of the civil agencies, reaching down comprehensively to the grass-roots level in a way that humanitarians could not. This created an obvious area for cooperation: humanitarian agencies would provide the relief and development equipment and expertise, and the SFOR military organisation would help to target the most needy areas and distribute the equipment. John Mackinlay 'NGOs and military peacekeepers: friends or foes?' in *Jane's IDR* 7/97.

³ For example see the MOD's *Peace Support Operations* JWP 3-50 pp7-5; and Major S R Skeates "Operating in a complex environment: How can the British military improve Interagency Cooperation in Peace Support Operations?" *RMCS Shrivenham dissertation* 1998.

⁴ Brigadier-General Jeffery Pilkington, commander of Operation Provide Comfort in Northern Iraq 1993-95, identified lack of communication, together with lack of trust, as the two major causes of misunderstanding between military and humanitarian personnel. See Jeffery S Pilkington "Improving military and civilian cooperation in humanitarian relief operations" in *Refugee Participation Journal* No. 23 Jan-Apr 1997.

⁵ In Somalia in 1993, the military so antagonised the local population that for relief workers to be protected by the military in some cases increased their risk of being attacked by local warlords.

⁶ Colonel Paul Filler (then British Army, now working for ECHO) in an interview in Nairobi 15 March 1999.

⁷ *ibid* pp3-4.

⁸ Figures are from *UN Peacekeeping: 50 years 1948-1998* DPI/2004 1998.

⁹ *UN Peacekeeping: 50 years 1948-1998* op. cit. pp7.

¹⁰ The Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC), formed in 1992 and including major NGOs as well as the UN Agencies, provides a degree of strategic guidance. It meets formally twice a year, and informal 'out of committee' discussions may take place in response to a crisis. Participants believe IASC is a useful forum, although the grass roots view is more critical. More recently, the Secretary General has formed a new Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs in New York, whose track record is as yet unestablished. Meanwhile, OCHA may establish a more effective coordinating role given time and sufficient funding. Ultimately, however, firm leadership on the ground is likely to be the most important factor with the SRSG and the Regional or National Humanitarian Coordinator being the key players.

¹¹ Michael Doyle et al *Keeping the Peace* op cit pp387