

PREFACE

One feature of the post-Cold War world has been an increasing reliance on the use of armed forces in the international community's efforts to address humanitarian emergencies, particularly in providing security and support for the delivery of emergency relief assistance in conflict situations. At the Lisbon Summit of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe on 2 December 1996, Canada's Prime Minister the Right Honourable Jean Chrétien identified the need to learn from the way that such crises have been handled in the past, thinking particularly about the events then unfolding in Zaire. The ultimate goal of the Prime Minister's initiative is to enhance the capacity of, and improve the management of, the international community's use of the military in response to international humanitarian crises.

It is clear that, if we are going to do things better in the future, we need to seriously examine what was done wrong in the past. This process of improvement must begin with a dialogue among governmental and non-governmental experts, which seeks to identify and understand the lessons that the past can teach. The following report was drafted to assist in this learning process. An earlier draft of this report was discussed at a workshop of international experts held in Toronto in April of this year and subsequently refined.

The views presented in this report are those of the authors alone and do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the Department of National Defence, or of the Government of Canada.