

Observations:

ONUCA is generally regarded as a successful mission, the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration aspects of which were facilitated by the election of a government acceptable to the main force to be demobilized. An *ad hoc*, incomplete plan was successfully implemented through the cooperation of the UN and the OAS/CIAV mission backed by USA financing and the government's offer of land plots to ex-combatants.

With the partial exception of Namibia, ONUCA was the first UN peacekeeping operation with a substantial disarmament operation as part of its mission. The international presence in the form of an infantry battalion of 800 soldiers able to protect the assembly areas and to prevent collected weapons from theft or repossession prior to their disposal and the focus on family -- not just the individual soldier's -- requirements at the assembly areas were vital confidence builders in convincing the ex-combatants that the process was a genuine one. The destruction of the weapons turned in and the conversion of some of them into prostheses provided tangible evidence that the peace would be sustainable. ONUCA's disarmament task was also considerably facilitated by the agreement reached by the Central American Five -- as part of the Esquipulas Accords -- to refrain from transferring arms across regional borders.

From a longer term perspective, however, the assessment is more sobering. The incomplete disarmament process together with the failure to properly reintegrate the ex-combatants has led to the situation where significant numbers of Contras and Sandinistas alike are, at best, unemployed, and at worst, part of criminal gangs armed with military-style weapons.

United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC)

UNTAC was deployed to oversee the implementation of the Paris Peace Agreement of 1991, a comprehensive settlement signed by the parties to the conflict and backed by a broad international consensus which included the five permanent members of the Security Council and all key regional players.

Pursuant to the Comprehensive Political Agreement, UNTAC assumed direct control or supervision over a range of civil administration functions⁵⁵ in order to ensure a neutral political environment conducive to free and fair elections. Military tasks included monitoring the cease fire, verification of the withdrawal of foreign

⁵⁵ These functions included exercising administrative control over Foreign Affairs, National Defence, Finance, Public Security and Information.