

The case of OLS is not the only example of a humanitarian ceasefire contributing to a larger peace process. During the revolution in Santo Domingo in 1965, a humanitarian ceasefire was arranged by the International Committee of the Red Cross to allow for the removal of the wounded and sick from the conflict zone. The ceasefire, intended only to allow the Red Cross to accomplish their mission, was extended by agreement between the belligerents and eventually brought an end to the fighting.<sup>66</sup>

It is evident that the negotiation and implementation of a humanitarian ceasefire can sometimes have a salutary effect on conflict. It may serve to moderate the intensity of a particular conflict by introducing moral and humanitarian values. It may also demonstrate to the belligerents that peaceful cooperation is not only possible but necessary in order to achieve some of their goals. Finally, humanitarian ceasefires can, on occasion, provide the necessary impetus or opportunity for moving the warring factions to settle their dispute through negotiated means. Beyond these important but often incidental contributions made by humanitarian ceasefires to the process of conflict resolution, it remains to be seen how these efforts conform with the literature on conflict resolution theory.

### 3.3 Humanitarian Ceasefires and Conflict Resolution Theory

One of the criticisms made against ceasefires is that the breathing space they provide prepares the ground for more intense fighting. This, says Bailey, is because that breathing space is not put to good use.<sup>67</sup> On one level, where the identified need is fulfilled, the time provided by a humanitarian ceasefire is more than adequately exploited. Yet, one has to ask if the process of a humanitarian ceasefire can not more directly contribute to the resolution of conflict.

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<sup>66</sup> Yves Sandoz, "The Red Cross and Peace: Realities and Limits," *Journal of Peace Research*, 24:3 1987, p.293; Also see: Pierre Jequier, "How a Humanitarian Truce was Brought About in Santo Domingo. Letter from Pierre Jequier, Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross to the ICRC," *International Review of the Red Cross*, No. 52, July, 1965, pp. 362-364; and, Luis F, Fernandez Martinez, "Santo Domingo. A Report Submitted to the International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva," No. 58, January, 1966, pp. 30-34.

<sup>67</sup> Bailey, *supra* note 18, p. 3.