

CONCLUSION

Fifty years after the liberation of the Nazi death camps, genocide and other crimes against humanity are very much still with us--to the shame of all the nations of the world. But today genocide is universally recognized as a high crime under international law, and crimes against humanity have been codified authoritatively in the Statute of the International Criminal Court. The challenge the world community now faces is how to enforce the evolving body of international criminal law, particularly the 1948 Genocide Convention. The successful creation of the proposed International Criminal Court will mark an important but unfortunately inconclusive step toward meeting that challenge.

With the tragic events of recent years in Somalia, Bosnia, Rwanda and Burundi, and now the potential genocide in Kosovo, the world today is forced to confront its failure to prevent genocidal episodes all too reminiscent of Nazi horrors. For a host of reasons, intervention by individual powers or by ad hoc coalitions of nation-states, whether formed regionally or under U.N. auspices, has not provided a workable solution. Rapid reaction peacekeeping forces are needed, but the force proposed here has a more specific purpose. Diplomacy and sanctions, of course, must always be employed fully before force is deployed. But in too many instances since 1948, they too have failed to provide effective enforcement for the Genocide Convention adopted that year.

In cases of genocide and other crimes against humanity, as in heinous crimes committed within nation-states, effective law enforcement requires effective police operations. We believe the time has come for the world community to confront this fact, and deal with these crimes by establishing a special transnational police force, under the United Nations, dedicated to halting, preventing and punishing these grave and egregious offences.