

may have of becoming embroiled in an arrangement more permanent than they had originally intended.

Aside from monitoring a humanitarian ceasefire, peacekeeping forces could assist in the delivery and application of the humanitarian aid. Gordenker and Weiss point out that military forces usually offer certain technical capacities that could be adapted for use in humanitarian emergencies.¹⁰¹ The *Peacekeeper's Handbook* specifies that a force's logistics and transport capacity enables it to undertake immediate, large scale distribution of relief. Significantly, it points out also that UN medical teams can be made available for emergency and special cases to supplement the work of the Red Cross.¹⁰²

The United Nations Operation in the Congo (ONUC) is the most oft-cited precedent legitimizing the use of peacekeeping forces to deliver humanitarian assistance. Liu observes that, during the four years of its operation (1960-1964), ONUC protected countless civilians affected by the turmoil, provided them with extensive humanitarian assistance in various forms, and saved many from the death trap of political struggle, tribal warfare, famine and disease.¹⁰³

A similar precedent was set by the United Nations Forces in Cyprus. It has been said that UNFICYP provides a good indication of the part a military element of a peacekeeping force can play in a humanitarian relief operation and the extent to which it

¹⁰¹ Leon Gordenker and Thomas G. Weiss, "Humanitarian Emergencies and Military Help: Some Conceptual Observations," Paper prepared for and International Workshop on Humanitarian Emergencies and Conflict Resolution: Consultations on Africa, 7-9 March 1989, Harare, Zimbabwe, p. 25.

¹⁰² International Peace Academy, *supra* note 20, p. 248.

¹⁰³ F. T. Liu, "The Significance of Past Peacekeeping Operations in Africa to Humanitarian Relief," Paper prepared for an International Workshop on Humanitarian Emergencies and Conflict Resolution: Consultations on Africa, 7-9 March 1989, Harare, Zimbabwe, p. 3.