

station commanders acquire some supervisory experience, to organize the station monitors into some semblance of order. An increase in house burnings and threats against people to leave their homes caused an increase in the number of refugees and displaced people who came to CIVPOL stations for assistance.

In Sarajevo, some RCMP members became chief negotiators in prisoner exchanges, body exchanges and the general processing of refugees. Negotiations were difficult because CIVPOL had to first negotiate a cease fire between warring groups and persuade refugees, through interpreters, that it was safe for them to leave the security of the buses. These highly volatile situations called for understanding, courage, tolerance and a willingness to be involved — on several occasions, the soldiers were intoxicated, argumentative, and unwilling to cooperate. On many occasions, CANCEVOPOL had to place themselves between soldiers and interpreters, whom the soldiers wanted to shoot.

There were several similar instances reported where RCMP monitors used tact, firmness and sound judgement and were able to cultivate good working relations with local authorities and governing bodies, without whom the programs would have failed. The difficulties are compounded because the guidelines and restriction of movements are as changeable as the guards who control the checkpoints. Danger exists because of treachery, hate, mistrust and suspicion harboured by the warring group. In all situations, confusion among the ordinary people created fear and easily exploded into violence, which the members had to control. Members must use common sense and innova-

tion to resolve problems where there are no written rules.

CANCEVOPOL members were the driving force in programs to facilitate the processing and assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons, an on-going exchange of letters and parcels between relatives trapped on both sides, visits to family members and the graves of loved ones and exchanges of prisoners and bodies. These programs are operating successfully because CIVPOL monitors are now tasked with the responsibility, backed by additional people supplied by UN humanitarian agencies. CANCEVOPOL was instrumental in launching the involvement of CIVPOL in the Refugee Program, motivated by the necessity to take action out of respect for human dignity. Compassion for the suffering compelled them to become involved at great personal risk to their own safety in the face of great adversity.

Workload increased

In September 1992, fifteen additional RCMP members were sent to Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia to increase the number of RCMP-UNPROFOR monitors from 30 to 45. They were part of a 120-person additional deployment of police by the United Nations, and are expected to stay with UNPROFOR for eight months.

The roster of names and division at the time of posting of these members follows:

"A" Division: Reg. No. 36906, Cst. J.M.S. Faucher

"B" Division: Reg. No. 32985, Cpl. A.R. Goodyear

"D" Division: Reg. No. 34819, Cpl. R.M. Rix

"E" Division: Reg. No. 29734, Cpl. J.D. Lynch; Reg. No. 35964, Cst. M.T. Rasche