

established by the founding members in 1987. The Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) also responded to the reality uncovered by the Gulf war to add additional dual-use items to the list of targeted commodities which form the core focus of their efforts to stem proliferation via trade restrictions.¹ And finally, having successfully completed the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament has turned its attention to negotiating a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. If such a treaty results in the end to nuclear testing, the prospects for an indefinite extension in 1995 of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty increase significantly. In sum, at the moment it appears that these two seminal events have made possible significant progress toward stemming the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

Transparency

As with non-proliferation, the international community has also begun to emphasize transparency as a new approach and basic building block to cooperative security. This is most readily seen in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) where a host of transparency measures were put into effect and further developed as the Cold War ended, to include exchanges of information under the CFE and Open Skies Treaties and the more regularized exchange of databases on order of battle and inventories of member states. In the United Nations, the UN Disarmament Commission (UNDC) has taken up the question of objective information on military matters. Several regional organizations have begun to take steps to make military information more open.² There is even an effort by the international financial organizations to tackle a subject long a taboo, making trade statistics on military trade more transparent.³

Post-Cold War International Arms Trade Control

What was the impact of these two events on the proliferation of conventional weapons? Throughout the Cold War the trade in conventional weapons was never a part of the larger non-proliferation agenda, at least at the international and multilateral level. But the end of the Cold War brought about major systemic changes in the arms trade which were relevant to the emergence of the UN Register. One of the major suppliers of the Cold War era, the Soviet Union, disappeared as a major

¹ For a recent assessment of the response of the NSG to the end of the Cold War and the Gulf War, see Tadeus Strulak, 'The Nuclear Suppliers Group,' *The Nonproliferation Review* I, 1 (Fall 1993), 2-11.

² For a summary of these transparency efforts, see Hendrik Wagenmakers, 'The UN Register of Conventional Arms: A New Instrument for Cooperative Security,' *Arms Control Today* (April 1993), 17-19.

³ As part of this effort, the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade (GATT) is convening a meeting of experts in May 1994 to address the issue.