

to speak about development, and the relationship between disarmament and development. By linking the two, we are pointing to a more positive motivation for disarmament than simple survival. If even a small fraction of the more than \$500 billion spent annually on military purposes were to be added to the \$20 billion now spent on aid, there would be a real possibility of making concrete, and even dramatic progress on solving existing development problems.

Annual global military expenditures are now estimated to be \$500 billion. This is equal to more than one billion dollars a day or, if you wish, almost a million dollars a minute. Since World War Two, the direct costs of the arms race have exceeded six trillion dollars, almost as much as the Gross National Product of the entire world in 1975. Six countries -- the Soviet Union, the United States, China, France, the United Kingdom and the Federal Republic of Germany -- account for about 72 per cent of world military spending, about 96 per cent of all research and development for military purposes, 90 per cent of all military exports and 95 per cent of exports of major weapons to developing countries.

It is understandable that the developing countries prefer to look at the vast armaments expenditures of the developed countries, and to emphasize the economic motivation for disarmament. But military spending must also be seen relative to the wealth of the countries concerned. It is therefore appropriate that the military expenditures of the developing countries also be examined.

These countries have about 50 per cent of the world's population and account for only about 14 per cent of the world's military expenditures, with China accounting for more than two-thirds of this. But while they appear small in the global context, the arms budgets of developing countries loom much larger when compared to their limited resources and their urgent social and economic needs. Unfortunately, the growth rate of these expenditures is running ahead of average world rates, and their share has risen from six per cent ten years ago to fourteen per cent today.

But it would be misleading to assume that all developing countries have increased military spending at the same rate. In South America, for example, the rate of increase was lower in the five years prior to 1978 than in the five preceding years. In addition, a large part of the overall increase among less developed countries is accounted for among Middle East countries, whose average annual growth in military spending has been 13.5 per cent in each of the last 10 years, compared to a NATO average expenditure growth of less than three percent.