

Section D, "Disarmament," is of particular interest to students of small arms and light weapons (pp. 14-15). The report introduces the term "micro-disarmament," which refers to the "...practical disarmament in the context of the conflicts the United Nations is actually dealing with and of the weapons, most of them light weapons, that are actually killing people in the hundreds of thousands" (p. 14). Two categories of light weapons deserve special attention: small arms, and anti-personnel mines. Small arms are likely responsible for most of the deaths in current conflicts and are readily available. Several reasons for the current surplus of small arms are noted:

- 1) supplies given to states during the proxy wars of the Cold War;
- 2) internal conflicts;
- 3) competition for commercial markets;
- 4) criminal activity;
- 5) the collapse of governmental law.

The report notes that the search for a solution must begin now. Progress has been made in the realm of major and nuclear weapons. What must follow are parallel measures towards constraining the proliferation of light weapons.

I-6. Report of the Secretary-General. *General and Complete Disarmament: Assistance to States for Curbing the Illicit Traffic in Small Arms and Collecting Them*. UN General Assembly Document A/50/405, September 5, 1995.

This document reports on the progress taken towards curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them. Several initiatives are outlined (e.g., the progress of the advisory mission sent to the Saharo-Sahelion region to study the problem of illicit arms trafficking). The increased recognition given to the problem of illicit small arms trafficking is praised, and the Secretary-General urges "...that the momentum of effort among Member States to take practical steps to deal with this grave problem be increased" (p. 2).

I-7. United Nations General Assembly. *General and Complete Disarmament*. United Nations Resolution 50/70B, November 17, 1995.

This resolution requests the Secretary General to prepare a report, with the assistance of qualified governmental experts, on: "(a) The types of small arms and light weapons actually being used in conflicts being dealt with by the United Nations; (b) The nature and causes of the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and transfer of small arms and light weapons, including their illicit production and trade; (c) The ways and means to prevent and reduce the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and transfer of small arms and light weapons, in particular as they cause or exacerbate conflict."

I-8. Boutros-Ghali, Boutros. *The Secretary-General's Report to the General Assembly on the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters*. UN General Assembly Document A/50/391, 1995.

Researchers and observers of efforts to deal with small arms will be particularly interested in paragraphs 12 through 14 on micro-disarmament. The Board identified "...the need for a better understanding of the ways and means of conducting micro-disarmament in other situations where there was no formal peace settlement and perhaps no presence of the United Nations or a regional organization" (para. 12). Unless there are adequate levels of personal security in a country plagued by light weapons, there is little chance of a successful micro-disarmament program. The international community has an obligation to help affected countries work towards stability.

I-9. General Assembly. *Report of the Disarmament Commission*. UN General Assembly Document A/51/42, 1996.

Annex I of this document is entitled *Guidelines for international arms transfers in the context of General Assembly resolution 46/36H of 6 December 1991*. Concern is expressed about the problem of illicit arms trafficking, that is "...international trade in conventional arms which is contrary to the laws of states and/or