

is a possibility of enlisting them both in a focussed effort to negotiate an arms transfer limitation regime. This should be done in parallel with measures to meet the real security concerns of the potential importers, and in concert with other sellers. It is time for such a campaign to be launched, and Canada would be well-placed, perhaps with a small group of other countries from all regions, to seize and develop new initiatives in this direction. One such initiative which might now be realistic, would be to promote regional confidence-building forums which, on the European model, might lead into arms control and arms transfer negotiations.

For a period, after the 1987 Defence White Paper, it appeared that Ottawa might sponsor a concerted campaign to promote growth in Canadian military industrial production and exports, and 1989 saw an intense debate over the international ARMX exhibition in Ottawa. It now seems that Canada's position has stabilized as a medium to small scale arms exporter (ranking about 13th in the world), supplying mainly US and other NATO countries, and attempting to prevent flows to regimes engaged in conflict or human rights violations. Such a position – where the country has just enough stake to be able to assess credibly the costs of limitations – is a good base from which to undertake useful initiatives.