

Part B.3

1993 Publications

301. Anthony, Ian. "Assessing the UN Register of Conventional Arms." *Survival*. Vol. 35, No. 4, Winter 1993, pp. 113-129.

Anthony evaluates the UN Register of Conventional Arms in its first year. He begins by outlining several attempts made in the twentieth century, most notably by the League of Nations in the 1920s, to control the spread of conventional weapons. He then details the nature of the current Register. Arguing that it is a political and not a military instrument, Anthony contends that the Register is designed to provide a framework for future arms control agreements. It differs from a treaty in that it contains no verification measures, and it provides no detailed definitions of what is and what is not subject to the agreement. Anthony responds to those who criticize the agreement by arguing, "...the choice is not between a mandatory and detailed register on one hand, or a voluntary and limited register on the other. The choice is between a voluntary and limited register or no register at all" (p. 117).

Participation was higher among exporters than among importers of arms (participation was most notably lacking among Middle East countries). Two suggestions are made for the development of the Register: first, given the length of time required by each nation to develop the machinery necessary to report its arms imports, it would be unwise to expand it too quickly; second, exporting countries should be encouraged to maximize their disclosure to set the standard for future reports.

Anthony concludes that the Register's first year was a qualified success. It provides information that has not been available, and it is an important first step in building the confidence necessary to secure arms control agreements. However, its future is uncertain. If the Register is to enjoy continued relevance it must evolve and expand while ensuring the continued participation of a large number of UN member states.

302. Besancenot, Bertrand. "Transparency in Armaments in a Regional Context." In *Disarmament Topical Papers 15: Transparency in Armaments: The Mediterranean Region*, New York: United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, 1993, pp. 51-55.

Besancenot maintains that transparency in armaments, at the regional level, has had both positive and negative aspects. On the one hand, transparency measures helped initiate the Middle East peace process. On the other, the war in former Yugoslavia demonstrates the instability still present in many regions. Thus, a regional approach to transparency offers both hopes and severe doubts for peace.

Besancenot claims that several developments have been made possible by transparency measures. First, European Community members have made progress towards harmonizing arms export policies. Second, the Permanent Five members of the Security Council have made progress in creating a consultative process on arms transfers. Finally, the UN Register of Conventional Arms was established. Besancenot argues that