

629. Vines, Alex. "Light Weapons Transfers, Human Rights Violations and Armed Banditry in Southern Africa." A Paper Presented at the BASIC Conference on Light Weapons Proliferation. London: June 30-July 2, 1996.

This paper examines the "...two main sources of light weapons in southern Africa and their impact on the region, and especially South Africa, which remains the main market" (p. 1). Both Angola and Mozambique, the two countries where most of the arms shipments to South Africa originate, are examined in detail. The internal conflicts in both Angola and Mozambique are analysed, along with commentary on the following:

- 1) effectiveness of arms embargoes (negligible);
- 2) disarmament efforts;
- 3) availability of guns;
- 4) re-integration of former combatants into civilian life;
- 5) increased armed crime;
- 6) role of the police;
- 7) military corruption.

Despite efforts over the last several years to curb the proliferation of light weapons, most of the weapons leaving Mozambique find their way to South Africa. Within South Africa itself, arms are stolen from legal owners (e.g., private security forces) and compound local problems. For example, the link between light weapons and drug trafficking continues to strengthen, with destructive results.

Several conclusions are offered:

- 1) social and economic forces fuel the demand for light weapons and must be addressed before progress can be made;
- 2) in both Angola and Mozambique, disarmament efforts have been anaemic. These efforts must be improved to avoid a further escalation of the arms trade with South Africa;
- 3) since ex-combatants are responsible for most violent crime, efforts must be made to re-integrate them into society;
- 4) more research must be done to determine the scope of the small arms trade in the region;
- 5) state armouries must be better protected against internal theft;
- 6) corruption within state police and security forces must be eradicated;
- 7) research must be done to explore the link between weapons availability and political violence;
- 8) a regional arms register should be created to include small arms transfers.

630. Volman, Daniel. "The Light Weapons Trade in Africa." A Paper Presented at the International Studies Association Annual Meeting. San Diego, California: April 17, 1996.

Violence has been escalating since the end of the Cold War and light weapons proliferation has played a critical role. This paper examines the evolution of the African arms trade "...to understand the reasons for these changes, to define the new patterns of the arms trade, and to analyze the impact of these developments on the nature of conflict throughout the continent" (p. 1).

The nature of the arms trade is determined both by external and by internal factors. During the Cold War African countries received weapons from the superpowers at concessionary rates. With the end of the Cold War, these subsidized transfers declined dramatically, making major purchases too expensive. As a result, states are more susceptible to armed challenges from insurgents. Internal factors, such as increased economic challenges and political problems, have made recruiting insurgents easier.

Three characteristics of the arms trade since the end of the Cold War are outlined:

- 1) a diversification of sources (i.e., an increase in the number of suppliers);
- 2) a shift towards light weaponry;
- 3) a growing link with crime (e.g., drug trafficking).

Each of these factors has a negative impact on the stability of African countries. This instability has been compounded by easy access to light weapons, making recourse to violence as a political tool likely.

As criminal and insurgent groups expand, they form "conflict clusters" or "spill-over zones" which span international boundaries. Several examples are detailed: North Africa and Western Europe; West Africa; Horn of Africa; Central Africa; and Southern Africa. The scale of the problem affects the global community (e.g., mass migration, need for aid, increase in illegal drug smuggling). The main problem is that no controls exist to