

It is perhaps instructive in this regard to note that despite repeated UN resolutions scarcely more than 20 states register with the UN their levels of military expenditure. Canada is one of the few countries that does so.¹⁹

Mr. Taylor also listed the current obstacles to such a measure, especially the type of information to be provided and the range of goods to be declared. He pointed out that some countries might refuse to be included on such a register for security reasons, since this register would contain virtually all information on a country's military strength, and might be used by a potential enemy. Finally, he explained that the problem of the arms trade could not be solved until the insecurity of some countries, which is often the result of flawed international security mechanisms, has been addressed.²⁰

Begun in 1983, the biennial Armed Forces Training Technology Exhibition (ARMX) held its 1989 exhibition in Ottawa from 23 to 25 May. The exhibition featured the latest military technology products of approximately 450 corporations from sixteen countries, including Canada. The sponsor of the event was the Toronto-based Baxter Publishing Co., publisher of the *Canadian Defence Quarterly*. Associate Minister of National Defence Mary Collins explained the role of ARMX-1989 to the House of Commons as follows:

...[T]he primary purpose of ARMX is to provide a forum in which training and technology needs of the Department of National Defence can be offered and shown.... The Government of Canada has identified its equipment needs from trucks to communications equipment, and ARMX provides the various companies with an opportunity to show their products and share their ideas.... ARMX gives Canadian companies...the opportunity to show what they have to offer to both exhibitors and to the Canadian Government.... Visitors from NATO countries are encouraged to look at Canadian capabilities to help them meet their NATO commitments.... We all know that the defence industry is a relatively small part of our national economy.... However, it certainly represents some of the most technologically sophisticated industries that we have. The high-tech industry is one of the ways for Canada to maintain a competitive position internationally.... The defence business is important to the economic viability of many of our high-tech communities.²¹

About 2000 demonstrators protested outside the grounds where ARMX-1989 was being held. A total of 145 people were arrested and charged with mischief when they staged a sit-down strike in an attempt to prevent the exhibition from opening. Ottawa's City Council voted to stop renting any municipally-owned property for future ARMX shows. It is widely anticipated that the 1991 exhibition will find a site elsewhere in Canada (for an explanation of the protests, see "Parliamentary Comment" below).

Canadian Government regulations require an export permit for the sale of military

¹⁹ Department of External Affairs, *Canadian Policy on Arms Control and Disarmament- Excerpts from Official Statements and Communication*, August 1988, p. 1.

²⁰ Keith Krause, *The International Trade in Arms: Problems and Prospects*. Ottawa: Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security, Conference Report No.6 (October 1987), pp. 28-29.

²¹ *Commons Debates*, 19 May 1989, pp. 1981-82.