

of both security and economic well-being.⁷ The recent report of The Commission on Global Governance (Chaired by Ingvar Carlsson and Shridath Ramphal) similarly concludes that “the development of military capabilities beyond that required for national defence and support of UN action is a potential threat to the security of people,” and proposes a Demilitarization Fund “to help developing countries reduce their military commitments.” It goes on to say that “collective military spending should be reduced to \$500 billion by the end of the decade.”⁸

The international community has in fact gone some distance in enunciating norms related to cuts in military spending: notably, that cuts in military spending are to be encouraged in the interests of international peace and security and in the interests of economic development. In these broad formulations, developing countries are not singled out for special attention (although it is acknowledged that the economic benefits of military spending cuts could be felt most directly and immediately by developing countries). While there is an implicit assumption in these calls for military spending cuts that the economic advancement of poorer countries should be a priority objective, the disarmament and military spending reduction imperatives do not target developing countries. The importance of developing criteria that apply equally to all states is assumed and can hardly be overstated. There are indeed international norms in support of deep reductions in military spending, and these norms are not regarded as applying only to a particular segment of the international community. They apply to all states. The 1982 study clearly suggests that the negative impact of military spending will be more acutely felt in less developed countries, but, through the recommendation of “an international disarmament fund for development” [paragraph 426.7.], the study just as clearly places the obligation to reduce military spending on all states. The study argues that “increasing the magnitude and predictability of

⁷ The commissions are best known through their respective chairs (Willy Brandt on development, Olaf Palme on Security, Gro Harlem Brundtland on environment and development, and Julius Nyerere on governance).

⁸ *Our Global Neighbourhood: The Report of the Commission on Global Governance* (Oxford University Press, 1995), pp. 338, 341.