

Recommendation 5. Member countries which have not already done so should ban the export, sale or transfer of military weapons to civilians.

Import and Export Controls

Of the handguns recovered in crime in Canada, a large percentage (60-70%) had been smuggled, primarily from the US. This experience is not unique; even as far away as Japan, roughly 30% of the firearms recovered by police are traced back to the United States.³⁴ Effective tracking of domestic guns and their owners was considered essential in allowing us to identify and prosecute those who had obtained guns illegally, whether they were guns which had been stolen or imported illegally. At the time, it was clear that regardless of how strong our domestic controls were, we would experience problems if other countries did not introduce measures to control the illegal trade and trafficking.

At the same time, while Canada has little domestic gun manufacturing, it is a transit point for gun and ammunition traders. Canada's export controls have been inadequate to keep track of firearms and to prevent firearms from being shipped to restricted destinations. While some changes have been made, further restrictions may be required to fulfill our international obligations.

The Need for International Cooperation

Because gun regulation is a federal government power, Canada was able to introduce national standards for gun regulation. However, there is a limit to how much we are able to do alone. In order to reduce illegal trafficking and assist in investigations we need international standards and cooperation to control the illegal gun trade and track firearms. In addition, we need technical standards for information systems, for coding and for identifying firearms.

Recommendation 6. The development of international standards and agreements for identifying, tracking and tracing firearms must be an international priority. In addition, systems should be developed to improve tracking the sale of ammunition and firearm components.

The Costs of Gun Violence

It is certain that many will talk about the costs of firearms regulations. In many countries, guns are big business. Even in Canada, which does not have a sizable firearms manufacturing industry, firearms related activities are estimated to add over \$1 billion to the economy each year. However, it is equally important to consider the costs of doing nothing, the costs of firearms death and injury. Those who try to put an economic value on human life have estimated the economic costs of firearm deaths and