

would likely remain outside the formal state-to-state structure of the register and fulfill a possibly noteworthy, but ancillary, watchdog role on its operations.

One area into which the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms has provided a deeper view was the field of import and export data. Bradford University researchers have noted that data could often be garnered from one country's submission about activity in another.⁴⁰ A data base using both import and export information allows some overview by other participating nations and the public. Therefore, the light weapons register should make provision for import and export data to be included in each country's submission in order to allow for the development of a data base permitting a basic level of analysis of international light weapons flows.

Secretariat

The day-to-day operation of a light weapons register may require some administrative support. To be effective, a register must be up-to-date and as accurate as possible, (recognizing that there may be some constraints on timeliness required to ensure business confidentiality, for example). This may call for a small central staff to accomplish the myriad of administrative actions which would contribute to timeliness and completeness.

It might be possible in some circumstances for a group of participating nations to simply exchange reports among themselves with no intermediary organization. In contexts where the number of participants is small and the aims of the umbrella agreement are limited, this may suffice. The responsibility for the necessary administration then falls upon the nations themselves to ensure that all reports are submitted on time and with complete accuracy. Difficulty would likely arise quickly if the number of participants grew, however.

To undertake the mechanical administration of a light weapons register, the establishment of a central Secretariat would probably be very useful. Such an organization would perform the functions of a central clearing point for information, undertake administrative arrangements for activities such as periodic meetings, construct any databases necessary for information retrieval and facilitate communications. The sheer volume of data to be collated and classified may dictate that some expertise be put into place to ensure that a data base is properly constructed, administrative problems are solved, communications function and that meaningful information can be extracted from the register. In other arms control regimes, this has been done in a variety of ways.

The CFE Treaty has come to rely, in great measure, upon the efforts of a part of an existing international organization: the NATO staff which runs the VERITY data base in Brussels. The staff also co-ordinates training for all participating CFE states to ensure that the data is correctly handled and that CFE-permitted inspections are done to a similar standard. The NATO staff provide a common discussion platform by conducting seminars for verification agencies to discuss operational problems and solutions. Similarly, the OSCE administers the Vienna