

simply in the redefinition of its role with civilians along with the recasting of structures, role, mission and objectives. Which brings us to the question of resource constraints, and the high costs of reconversion and enhancing democratic control. In many African countries unpaid soldiers have been responsible for instability, and where the military has been called to help stabilize democratic rule, very often this demanded higher defense expenditures.

Although the argument has been abused, there are a number of areas in which the talents, organization and resources of the military could be brought to bear on behalf of basic human and ecological needs. The notion may seem unpalatable, but in the context of a weak civil society and underfunded or underwilled governments on one side, and growing socio-ecological imperatives on the other, one could not, in many countries simply rule out the application of "military" force to social problems. Perhaps armies and police forces can be "streamlined" to become bodies that will support—rather than overthrow—democratically elected governments.

Of course, much depends on the nature and the vision of the military itself. One however should not assume that the military will instinctively always react negatively to such reconversion. The writing is on the wall, and it would appear that a military which keeps to its barracks in this day and age, will eventually become redundant. Military hierarchies are not unaware of the new global conditions, including the shortage of capital for cooperation, nor of demands civilians and donors among others are making on scarce resources traditionally assigned to "security." Reconversion in this context may be a way out; certainly preferable to outright dismantlement and political confrontation on the one hand, or an unhealthy drive to build up independent entrepreneurial tendencies or illicit sources of income on the other.

This scenario presupposes of course that a political reconversion of sorts can or is taking place (South Africa, El Salvador, Nicaragua, perhaps Haiti). Where security apparatus and armies harbor human rights violators and illicit enrichment schemes, then reconversion begins with a thorough cleansing of known violators and counter-insurgency doctrines. This perhaps is less the task of donors than of a nation's own citizens and genuine representatives who must be the first to set the underpinnings for a genuine democratic development, wherever possible through