

(Stockholm International Peace Research Institute) had tracked. It is suggested that some transfers were omitted because of the Register's vague category definitions. This difficulty is attributed to different procedural approaches taken by governments in preparing their submissions.

437. Taylor, Colonel Terence. "Understanding the United Nations Conventional Arms Register." *The Fletcher Forum of World Affairs*. Vol. 18, No. 1, Winter/Spring 1994, pp. 111-119.

Taylor argues that 1994 will be a critical year for the UN Register of Conventional Arms. He maintains that to understand its current problems, one must know how the Register developed. To this end, an overview is given of the negotiations which created the Register.

Taylor also chronicles the development of the concept of an arms register, beginning with the failed attempt by the League of Nations in the 1920s and 1930s. Three lessons can be garnered from the League's failure: first, the UN should be cautioned against setting overly ambitious goals for the Register; second, it should be equitable with respect to both arms importers and exporters; and, finally, one must never lose sight of the fact that the root cause of international stability is not the transfer of armaments; rather, arms transfers reflect the lack of a workable political solution to international conflict.

In addition, Taylor documents the evolution of the Register from the first proposal in 1991, through the debates in the General Assembly, and includes an analysis of the activities of the 1992 Panel of Experts (convened to expand and clarify the Register). Given the difficult questions which the 1992 Panel was forced to set aside for the 1994 Panel another consensus report will be difficult to achieve. Nevertheless, continued relevance is an attainable goal for the Register. Taylor maintains that the 1994 Panel would be well served to learn from the ill-fated attempt to regulate armaments in the interwar years and cautions against setting goals which are too ambitious. It would be better to expand the Register incrementally to ensure greater geographical participation and longer life. Failure to do so would consign the Register to the fate of its League of Nations predecessor.

438. Varas, Augusto. "Transparency and Military Information in Latin America." In *Developing the UN Register of Conventional Arms*, eds. Malcolm Chalmers, Owen Greene, Edward J. Laurance and Herbert Wulf, Bradford University: Redwood Books, 1994, pp. 251-270.

The general characteristics of Latin American security issues are as follows: first, a coherent view on hemispheric security does not exist; second, owing to the focus of governments on domestic issues, regional and national defence issues are not of primary concern; third, a variety of internal alignments exist between civil and military authorities, with a close relationship in some states (e.g. Peru) and a distant one in others (e.g. Venezuela); fourth, there is no common approach to dealing with the region's dominant power, the United States, making it difficult to conclude hemispheric agreements; fifth, success has been achieved in working towards arms control at the level