

320. McDonald, Ian S. "The United Nations Study on Promoting Transparency." In *Disarmament Topical Papers 15: Transparency in Armaments: The Mediterranean Region*, New York: United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, 1993, pp. 37-39.

The Chair of the 1991 Group of Experts appointed by the Secretary General to study the ways and means of promoting transparency in arms transfers, McDonald focuses on the "content and intent of that report" (p. 37). He relates the shared perceptions of the 1991 Panel of Experts on the following points: first, any significant build-up of arms entails a risk to international stability; second, money spent on arms is money not available in other areas; and, finally, all states have a legitimate right to arm for self-defence.

In addition, McDonald relates the discussions of the Panel on transparency in armaments and the subsequent creation of the UN Register of Conventional Arms. On the positive side, the group concluded that the Register encourages international confidence, prevents ill-founded suspicions, and encourages domestic debate (i.e. it allows citizens to see how much and in what way money is spent). On the negative side, transparency cannot be enforced from on high. Its implementation depends upon international cooperation.

Despite its difficulties, the Panel agreed that transparency in armaments was a possible precursor to more effective arms control measures. McDonald offers several efforts which could complement the Register at regional and sub-regional levels: exchange information about arms purchases; explain defence policies and postures; observe military exercises; conduct shared military exercises; and, finally, discuss security perceptions and concerns.

321. Pierre, Andrew J. "The United States Role in Creating Multilateral Restraints on the Proliferation of Conventional Weapons." In *Disarmament Topical Papers 15: Transparency in Armaments: The Mediterranean Region*, New York: United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, 1993, pp. 61-71.

Pierre maintains that the Gulf War has focused international attention on the proliferation of conventional weapons. Leaders of some of the world's major arms supplying states (e.g. George Bush, U.S.; Francois Mitterand, France; and John Major, Britain) have all offered arms control initiatives. One common, and revolutionary, thread which runs through these proposals is "...the acceptance of the principle that the primary responsibility for creating some system of international controls over arms transfers rests with the nations that produce and supply the weapons" (pp. 63-64).

Dialogue between major arms producers has generated two concrete arms control measures: the Permanent Five meetings (P5), and the UN Register of Conventional Arms. The first measure represents a watershed in arms control. It marks the first time the world's major arms suppliers have come together with the purpose of restraining the flow of armaments. By contrast, the attraction of the UN Register may be political. It allows politicians to say they are doing something, and its establishment was easier than