

INTRODUCTION

The issue of small arms and light weapons proliferation has been a peripheral item on the international security agenda for some time, dating back at least to the attempt in the Brussels Act of 1890 to restrict arms shipments to Africa. With the end of the Cold War the issue has gained increasing international prominence.

Scope:

Small Arms and Light Weapons: An Annotated Bibliography comprises scholarly and analytical works written on the subject since 1993. The criteria for inclusion are as follows: first, the item must be published in or after 1993 and publicly available by August 1996; second, the item must contain some substantive analysis or assessment of the issue of small arms and light weapons proliferation or of possible responses to this issue. Items that merely report on weapons transfers, proliferation control measures, or current events, are not included. Finally, this *Bibliography* excludes literature dealing primarily with anti-personnel landmines; a separate bibliography has been produced on that topic¹.

Several items taken from international discussions dealing with firearms regulation and which relate to the issue of illicit arms trafficking have been included in this *Bibliography*. Because of time limitations no attempt has been made to cover this area in the same depth as for the disarmament literature. Nevertheless, it was thought desirable to include some material from firearms regulation discussions to help promote an awareness of the similarities between some of the approaches to the two issues -- firearms regulations and disarmament -- and to the relevant on-going discussion/negotiation processes.

Arrangement:

Small Arms and Light Weapons: An Annotated Bibliography is divided into five parts. Part A consists of annotations of documents from the United Nations, regional organizations and other international arrangements that are relevant to the issue of small arms and light weapons proliferation, organized in ascending chronological order. Each annotation summarizes the major arguments of the document and records any recommendations. For ease of reference, a serial number has been attached to each citation which begins with "I" (e.g., I-1) to distinguish it from entries in other parts of the *Bibliography*. The serial number appears in the left margin before each annotation, and corresponds to the numbers included in the author and keyword indexes.

Part B contains over eighty annotations of governmental, academic and other publications offering substantive comment on the issue of small arms and light weapons proliferation. Part B is sub-divided by year to provide the reader with a sense of the dramatic increase in the number and scope of the publications over the last three years. Within each annual sub-division entries are arranged in alphabetic order by author.

Each annotation in Part B reproduces any definitions offered for small arms and light weapons. This format allows the reader to garner a sense of the evolution of the material on the subject, as well as to trace the changing definitions for small arms and light weapons. Furthermore, each annotation attempts to describe the scope of the article or book being abstracted, lists the major arguments, and reports any conclusions or recommendations. As in part A, entries in this section have been assigned a serial number. Publications dated 1993 have serial numbers starting with 301; publications from 1994 start at 401, and so on through 1996 documents which begin with the number 601.

The advisability of attempting to control proliferation of small arms and light weapons has been argued in many ways, as reflected in items annotated in Part B. The vast majority of the works treat small arms and light weapons proliferation as a problem that must be confronted. Most authors are motivated by the desire to reduce the suffering resulting from the proliferation of small arms. Two items have dominated the agenda of researchers working in this field: first, raising the international profile of the causes of small arms and light weapons proliferation and its consequences; and, second, formulating a universally recognized definition of small arms and light weapons.

While the majority of documents favour controls, several reasons why small arms control may not be advisable are also suggested in the literature. First, controlling small arms and light weapons could infringe too easily upon Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, which relates to states' rights of self-defence. Second, there is no universal

¹ *Anti-Personnel Land Mines: An Annotated Bibliography*, (Ottawa: Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, October 1996).