

But the burden of military spending is most effectively measured as a percentage of Gross National Product. In this respect, the Middle East far surpasses other regions of the world. The defence budgets of 11 countries of that region absorb 17 percent of their G.N.P. Egypt's burden, for example, was more than 25 percent of its G.N.P. in the mid seventies; NATO, Warsaw Pact countries and most of the Far Eastern countries average around four percent of G.N.P., while 32 African countries average 2.5 percent.

When considering military expenditures, we should keep in mind that 80 percent of all spending is on conventional armaments. While we cannot minimize the nuclear threat, we have to remember that conventional weapons have been used to kill 25 million people in 133 wars since the end of World War Two. For this reason, Canada holds the view that disarmament efforts must not be directed solely to the nuclear threat.

The question of reducing conventional arms sales is an important aspect of disarmament. About two-thirds of the \$20 billions of arms sold each year are purchased by developing countries. In this regard, Canada has supported the establishment of a United Nations arms transfer register. We have done so not to deny developing countries the right