I   CURRENT TRENDS

The first two workshops were devoted to general topics. The first was the effects of the war with Iraq on controls on the sale of arms and strategic products. Then second was a far less familiar topic, namely the impact which new producers of arms and dual-purpose technologies have had on world markets, and their position regarding export controls on arms.

The Proliferation of Arms in the 1990s: The Lessons of the Iraq Crisis

The first speaker, **Lewis Dunn** of Science Applications International Corporation, thought that the war in the Gulf would have positive consequences because it drew attention to the proliferation of weapons. He believed that regional races to acquire nuclear weapons would diminish. In the Middle East, Iraq no longer posed a threat to Israel, which also knew now that it could count on American protection against missile attack. The war also demonstrated the military uselessness of chemical weapons and put an end to the myth of the poor peoples' bomb. This recently induced the United States to modify its policy on chemical weapons. However, Mr. Dunn admitted that there remained a serious problem with the proliferation of missiles and conventional weapons. Demand was likely to be high in the future for missiles more sophisticated than the Iraqi SCUDs and above all, for anti-missile missiles like the Patriot. The same would hold true for sophisticated conventional weapon systems, especially for command, control, communication and information systems (C^3I).

Nevertheless, Mr. Dunn believed that the Iraqi example would stimulate efforts to control the supply of technologies needed to produce weapons of mass destruction. The Iraqi crisis established important precedents such as the use of force against aggressors, the United Nations' resolution calling for the elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, and the initiative taken by the five major powers to control the flow of arms into the Middle East. Chemical weapons have lost their aura, and conventional arms have