

level, efforts should be directed at reinforcing national initiatives (e.g., a network of non-governmental organizations can work on the same problem). Finally, at the international level, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank should play a vital role in raising the profile of light weapons issues. Siddiqi-Agha concludes that all three of these levels must work in concert for any progress to be made in controlling the proliferation of light weapons.

623. Singh, Jasjit. "Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons." A Paper Presented at the Eighth Regional Disarmament Meeting in the Asia-Pacific Region. Kathmandu: February 21-24, 1996.

The starting premise of this paper is that "...the most serious threat to peace and security at the international, national, and societal levels emanates from the phenomenal proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the world" (p. 1). Since the end of the Cold War, there has been a decline in the number of conflicts; most are now intrastate in character, and are conducted in an irregular manner. Small arms and light weapons have figured prominently in these conflicts.

Ironically, disarmament and demobilization efforts in the wake of the Cold War have contributed to the proliferation of light weapons. For example, the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty rendered huge stocks of light weapons superfluous, but rather than destroy these weapons, many states elected to sell them at reduced prices. Efforts to control the problem must address two issues: the diffusion of arms that have already taken place; and the spread of light weapons that will take place in the future. Unfortunately, control efforts will be hampered by a number of factors. For example, states no longer have a monopoly over the instruments of violence. In addition, since small arms and light weapons are the main weapons of police and security forces, there will continue to be technological improvements in the lethality of these weapons.

Very little has been done to curb the proliferation of light weapons. While some progress can be made at the national level, "...real solutions can only evolve out of international consultation and co-operation" (p. 8). In the meantime, the dangers associated with light weapons proliferation must be publicized.

Singh offers two approaches to manage the proliferation of light weapons. First, transparency and accountability should be pursued, most likely in the form of a United Nations register of light weapons. Second, categorisation and classification of light weapons are essential, and, therefore, a universally accepted definition of light weapons must be formulated.

624. Smith, Christopher. "Light Weapons and the International Arms Trade." In *Small Arms Management and Peacekeeping in Southern Africa (Disarmament and Conflict Resolution Project, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, Geneva)*, [Serial No. 625], Christopher Smith, Peter Batchelor and Jakkie Potgieter, New York and Geneva: United Nations, 1996, pp. 1-59.

The impact and social cost of light weapons proliferation have increased dramatically since the end of the Cold War. However, these weapons have been largely ignored by the international community for the last fifty years in the context of concern over weapons of mass destruction and major conventional weapons. In the new security environment, it is no longer common to have to deal with interstate conflict. Instead, the international community must devise "...ways and means of preventing low-intensity conflict" (p. 4).

This article is divided into several sections (the first of which was the introduction). Section II details the characteristics of light weapons. Section III examines the global proliferation of light weapons stocks. The methodology employed is to examine a series of regions and compare and contrast the results (e.g., Europe and the former Soviet Union, Asia, Latin America, Middle East and North Africa, Africa). Section IV analyses peacekeeping and arms control efforts in Southern Africa using various examples: Mozambique, Namibia, Angola and Rhodesia. Section V examines regional peacekeeping and the implications for South Africa. Smith notes the existence of a huge influx of arms from Mozambique and Angola to South Africa. Several related issues are also investigated:

- 1) firearms trafficking and light weapons proliferation;
- 2) political and criminal factors which underlie demands for light weapons;
- 3) light weapons proliferation and its impact on civil society in South Africa and Swaziland.

Smith argues that while the peacekeeping expeditions to the region were successful with regards to ensuring elections, they failed with regards to disarmament. In the future, the UN must "...summon the