

435. Singh, Ravinder Pal. "Transparency in Arms Procurement Policies and Processes." In *Developing the UN Register of Conventional Arms*, eds. Malcolm Chalmers, Owen Greene, Edward J. Laurance and Herbert Wulf, Bradford University: Redwood Books, 1994, pp. 177-195.

Singh argues that there are several obstacles to achieving transparency in armaments. The regional and national security environments of many states are marked by tension and hostility; making the promotion of confidence-building measures difficult. There is also an international debate between states who want to keep their military development secret and nations who desire increased openness. The political and cultural attitudes of states traditionally opposed to disclosing information on security issues must be changed.

Proponents of transparency include the following groups: media and public interest groups, academic and constitutional experts, and opposition politicians. By contrast, opponents of transparency typically fall into one of the following areas: politicians in power, officials engaged in security policy making, and members of the military. The challenge confronting the UN Register of Conventional Arms is to draw these two groups together.

Singh cautions, however, against considering the Register as a universal solution. There remains a need to develop "an entire range of strategic indicators and response mechanisms" (p. 188) to operate in conjunction with it. For example, governments should be encouraged to produce papers on arms procurement policies and explain their strategic assessments and defence budgets annually. Moreover, several ways to improve the Register are detailed: first, it must include a category which details procurement through national production; second, it must track upgrade packages which improve the lethality of obsolete weaponry; third, it must recognize that the production of arms is not a global phenomenon, and focus on the approximately fifty states who produce weapons to find a solution; and, finally, it must develop a credible verification methodology.

Singh warns against allowing the Register to become too Euro-centric. It must recognize that different security issues exist in different parts of the globe. In addition, definitions must be formulated regionally for critical terms (e.g. "excessive and destabilizing accumulation of arms") which more accurately reflect each region's security concerns. Finally, in its current form, the Register reflects a top-down approach to promoting transparency in armaments. In the future it should be developed to incorporate regional concerns into its global approach.

436. Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. "The First Year of the UN Register of Conventional Arms." In *SIPRI Yearbook, 1994*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994, pp. 486-487.

The first annual report of the UN Register of Conventional Arms is analyzed. It is argued that the Register was successful in recording some previously unknown arms transfers. However, some transfers were not reported in the Register that the SIPRI