

ODA, Military Spending, and Political Conditionality: Non-Governmental perspectives from the South

Guidelines:

for papers to assess and analyze, from a non-governmental perspective, the advantages and disadvantages (as well as other implications) of linking development assistance to the promotion of reductions in military spending in developing countries.

Malibub ul Haq, who has been the principal author of the UN's annual **Human Development Report**, urges a new focus on third world disarmament and on radically reducing military spending in favour of greater spending on economic and social development. He told a UN NGO conference in the fall of 1995 that the emphasis on security must change from national security to human security, and that, (by way of example), "all of the countries in South Asia...should start with a 5% reduction in their military expenditure...and put it into the education and health of their children." He went on to say:

I think military expenditure in the Third World has increased to the point where some very drastic actions will have to be taken to slow down the appetite of these nations for military equipment.... Military generals come and insist on air conditioned jeeps...while our children can not even have windowless schools. I think it has gone too far, this whole appetite for military equipment. And while I am against aid conditionality as a matter of principle – I think persuasion is far better than coercion—I think at least in this respect I stand for aid conditionality for military expenditure. Many donor countries have said – Japan and Germany, [as well as] the IMF and World Bank and others – that we will take the military expenditure of countries into account when giving assistance.... I think we should take it seriously and have some clear signals from the international system that if countries want to spend more on arms rather than on their people, they are not entitled to international generosity."

*(Panel on "Reducing Military Expenditures: Freeing Resources for Development,"
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*UN Centre for Disarmament Affairs,
the UN Department of Public Information, and
the NGO Committee on Disarmament)*