

Moreover, there are well-founded worries about the potential for commercially-motivated "leakages" of all types of weaponry and military expertise from the economically-desperate former Soviet empire to other parts of the world, exacerbating existing concerns about weapons proliferation. In the wake of the two Gulf wars, and the discoveries about Iraq's advanced weapons programmes, some progress was made in attempts to limit arms transfers (particularly to the Middle East in the first instance) with the October agreement of the five Permanent Members of the Security Council (also major arms exporters) on guidelines for these transfers. The agreement by the UN General Assembly in December to an arms registry system was further evidence of a broad sense of concern for the issue, and one in which Canadian representatives had taken an active part, particularly since the Prime Minister began personally pushing the question of arms transfers with his western Summit and other counterparts in February, 1991. At the same time, there were grave difficulties in getting agreement to limitations which would really constrain major arms suppliers, and only a few of the conflict-prone regions which provide major customers have yet seen adequate reduction of tensions. Wider North-South alienation and stress may continue to make further agreements in these areas very difficult, even including the renewal of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1995.

NATO and Future Security Systems in Europe

If we were trying to invent a major security system now, from scratch, we would try to do four broad things, two of which were not an active part of our agenda in 1949. We would want to:

1. Maintain a preponderance of non-threatening, deterrent military force among the OECD community of countries against any potential aggressor, in a system extending from Vladivostock to Vancouver and beyond.
2. Establish a solid framework for coordinating and burden-sharing in our defence efforts, and coordinating and pursuing arms control and arms reductions for increased military security. This framework would encompass the imposition of serious controls on the proliferation of modern weaponry.
3. Ensure that, even among allies, military responsibilities and capabilities are shared to the point where no partner feels resent-