

In that regard, action is now under way to study expanding the scope of the Register to include other categories of equipment and data on military holdings and procurement through national production. Based on the first year's experience, procedures are being put in place to better explain the methods of reporting, identifying categories of equipment, etc. It is also encouraging to note that suggestions have been made that equivalent regional systems be established, highlighting the unique requirements of particular regions. This instrument has real potential as a major confidence-building measure through greater transparency. Although there is no formal verification mechanism, the export/import aspect provides a self-check capacity. Data can also be compared with certain national reporting systems and with the work done in the same area by groups such as the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

These two practical steps are supplemented and reinforced by a UN document, *Guidelines and Recommendations for Objective Information on Military Matters*. These guidelines were developed and adopted unanimously by the United Nations Disarmament Commission and then endorsed by the General Assembly.⁶ Reference to these guidelines is becoming more and more prevalent in both global and regional contexts as states and groups of states put more emphasis on preventive diplomacy and transparency.

As regards additional confidence-building measures (including both political and military matters), there have been a number of suggestions for new processes, one of the more common being the establishment of "War Risk Reduction Centres." This had been a favourite UN project of the former Soviet Union, but it had not gathered much support during the Cold War. Recently, there has been a lot of emphasis on improving the "conflict prevention" capacity of regional organizations—witness, for example, the CSCE and its Conflict Prevention Centre

and Forum for Security Co-operation. These two approaches are virtually identical and there is scope for tasking and equipping regional organizations to play a catalytic role, including acting as clearing houses for information received from all sources. These "centres" could also act as facilitators for exchanges of military officers, inspections of military facilities and the observation of military exercises, all techniques in use in Europe but which, taking local circumstances into account, could be exported to other areas of the globe.

A similar tasking could be given to UN offices currently established in the field. More and more, that organization is turning to its Resident Representatives and their offices for assistance in activities normally outside their area of responsibility. These offices could belong to the UN Development Program, be a UN Information Centre or be a part of any other agency. There is also the possibility of building on the three UN Centres for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, and equipping them for a preventive diplomacy role. A further step in UN terms would be the establishment of UN embassies where full-time accredited diplomats would be the "eyes and ears" of the organization and its front-line troops in the preventive diplomacy role.

Peacemaking

Peacemaking, as defined by the United Nations, is action to bring hostile parties to agreement, essentially through such *peaceful* means as those foreseen in Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations.⁷ It is unfortunate that this term is also used in many quarters to define what the UN refers to as peace enforcement. This had led to some unfortunate confusion, especially in the media, when these terms are used interchangeably. It is to be hoped that the world's lexicon is orienting on the UN terminology as it becomes enshrined in various documents of the General Assembly, the Security Council, etc.

⁶ General Assembly Resolution 47/54/B of December 9, 1993.

⁷ These means include negotiation, inquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements, or other peaceful means of their own choice.

