

but do nothing to stop arms build-ups in countries that have developed their own arms industries.

A number of suppliers, as well, are not interested in controlling the arms trade. They see exporting arms as a way to make money and to help sustain their defence industries. Since a large number of countries make small arms and other unsophisticated weapons systems, recipients can always turn to them if the major suppliers stop supplying.

Effective arms transfer controls depend on countries agreeing on what is and is not an "arm" and on having border guards and customs officials trained to recognize such items. Many pieces of equipment — such as helicopters — have both military and non-military uses. Countries may import these so-called "dual-use" items for civilian purposes and then turn them to military use. In addition, the sale of arms is gradually being replaced by the sale of technology, which is harder to identify and control.

There is a small "black market" in arms. This illegal trade will likely increase if it becomes more difficult to legally trade arms.

## Conclusion

Since only about 20 percent of the arms produced in the world are traded, even a complete end to the arms trade would not prevent countries from acquiring too many arms. However, more controls on the arms trade would help to limit some of the drawbacks of the trade and thus would benefit suppliers, recipients and the international community. Controls on the arms trade would be most effective if they were combined with agreements to limit all arms — whether imported or produced locally — in a region, and with other measures to build confidence among countries and reach solutions to conflicts. These are the kind of measures that Canada is promoting in the Middle East. We hope that suppliers and recipients will learn the lessons of the Gulf War and move in the direction of achieving security with lower levels of weapons. More controls on the arms trade would be a useful part of this. ■



Canadian Forces personnel in the Persian Gulf fitting ammunition to the ship-board Phalanx air defence system. The Gulf War has made many countries take a closer look at controlling the arms trade.

Canadian Forces photo

## Forecast

*A list of arms control and disarmament activities involving Canada, May through September 1991.*

**Ongoing:** CSBM Negotiations, Vienna

**Ongoing:** CFE IA Negotiation, Vienna

**Ongoing:** CFE I Joint Consultative Group meetings, Vienna

**April 22 - May 13:** UN Disarmament Commission, New York

**May 14 - June 28:** CD in session, Geneva

**July 23 - September 9:** CD in session, Geneva

**September 9-27:** Third Review Conference of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, Geneva ■

## Acronyms

ACD — arms control and disarmament  
 ASW — anti-submarine warfare  
 BTWC — Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention  
 BW — biological weapons

CBM — confidence-building measure  
 CD — Conference on Disarmament  
 CFE — Conventional Armed Forces in Europe  
 COCOM — Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Strategic Export Controls  
 CSBM — confidence- and security-building measure  
 CSCE — Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe  
 CTB(T) — comprehensive test ban (treaty)  
 CW — chemical weapons  
 DND — Department of National Defence  
 EAITC — External Affairs and International Trade Canada  
 ECL — Export Control List  
 INF — intermediate-range nuclear forces  
 MTCR — Missile Technology Control Regime  
 NATO — North Atlantic Treaty Organization  
 NIAG — NATO Industrial Advisory Group  
 NPT — Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons  
 OECD — Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development  
 OSI — on-site inspection  
 PTBT — Partial Test Ban Treaty  
 SLCM — sea-launched cruise missile  
 START — Strategic Arms Reduction Talks  
 TLE — Treaty-limited equipment  
 UNDC — United Nations Disarmament Commission  
 UNGA — United Nations General Assembly ■

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