

Additionally, every two years Ruth Leger Sivard provides a report on world military and social expenditures. In their annual *Military Balance* the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London also provides estimates of world wide military spending although not estimates of arms transfers as such.

World expenditure on arms deliveries during 1985 is estimated at US\$ 27 billion (1983 constant US\$, ACDA 1986). This is a considerable drop from the previous three years, especially from the 1982 peak of US\$ 42 billion. In 1984 the US exported 24.6 percent of all world arms exports and the Soviet Union exported 26.8 percent, for a combined total of 51.4 percent.<sup>11</sup>

The downward trend of the mid-1980s has been attributed to a number of factors. Oil rich countries that had previously depended upon oil revenue to finance arms purchases have faced declining oil sales. Many of the countries that purchased arms in the 1970s no longer need to make large purchases, can no longer afford them or have begun to produce arms themselves. The number of suppliers has increased and the superpowers are now playing a reduced role in the market.

## Feasibility

### *Other Registers*

It will be important to assess how much an international register would add to public knowledge. While the gross figures might not be much different, the public sources now available use different methodologies and information bases. An international register would provide a single official agreed source for this information.

### *Suppliers*

Some supplier countries depend heavily on arms exports to maintain the economic well being of domestic industry. Others see arms transfers as a vital tool of foreign policy. If the idea of establishing an arms register is explicitly or implicitly linked to the idea of instituting controls on arms transfers, it is not likely to generate initial support from other supplier nations.

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<sup>11</sup> US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, *World Military Expenditure and Arms Transfers, 1986*, ACDA, Washington, 1986.