

then profitability increases attracting more would be suppliers.⁶⁸ All one has to do is look at what prohibition on alcohol in the 1930s did to the USA and, more recently, the effect of high taxes in Canada on cigarettes in regard to smuggling. Illicit activity increased dramatically and criminal competition compounded the problem. Supply controls on legal or open transfers must then address illicit transfers to prevent circumvention of export or import controls.

Canada has well established legislation and enforcement procedures for controlling illicit firearms trafficking which it is seeking to improve. Within this context, Canada's Department of Justice is involved in both the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna, and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission. As well, Canada is a member of the Firearms Seminar Group of the Organization of American States and is a member of the G7/P8 group of countries addressing firearm regulation. Within the G7/P8, Canada is working on enhancing inter-country cooperation through information sharing on technologies and criminal intelligence to combat smuggling and trafficking and transnational organized crime. Canada is proposing a number of options for enhanced firearms transfer controls and harmonization through the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission on the basis of bilateral or multilateral agreements. Some of these proposals include:

- standardization of firearms-weapons identification schemes;
- standardization of firearms weapons classification schemes and associated terminology;
- standardization of international import/export procedures including more detail and improved monitoring of sanctioned transfers;
- enhanced support for each states domestic agenda for firearms control; and
- improved collaboration and mutual efficiency in tracing, investigative and enforcement activities involving firearms.

There is most definitely a synergy with arms control regarding illicit firearms trafficking. To this end it might be useful for the UN to coordinate its studies and committees on illicit arms transfers in a forum where both the arms control and crime prevention interests can mount a cooperative approach to the study of illicit weapons transfers and participate in advisory bodies relevant to assisting states in combating weapons smuggling. This may mean occasional joint sessions, sub-panels or sub-committees to address the problem. As well, Canada's recent experience in coming to grips with firearms smuggling through various criminal justice and enforcement forums could provide a source of experience for UN members to draw upon, particularly in situations such as they exist in southern Africa or in the context of missions similar to the Sahara-Sahel Advisory Mission. The expertise which Canada has developed may well be of value internationally particularly in a pre- or post-conflict situation when dealing with the effects of intrastate strife. Bilateral

⁶⁸ This view is also supported by Singh, 154.