

to five years.¹¹

The end of apartheid and the settlement of most intrastate conflicts in the region (with the possible exception of Angola) thus has led to a substantial reduction in demand for military equipment and expenditure for personnel and operating costs. There is an acceptance in all the countries of the region that there is no foreseeable conventional military threat in the short to medium term; threats are rather perceived as lying in social and economic challenges. While there are a number of border disputes in the region (Lesotho and Swaziland, for example, lay claim to parts of South Africa), these are of a relatively minor nature and the countries of Southern Africa are increasingly interdependent and are drawn together politically and economically through the Southern African Development Community (SADC). There is thus little prospect that military demand will be driven by the threat of interstate conflict, although South Africa's overwhelming strength undoubtedly remains a source of concern to some countries even if this is not expressed.

Demand for armaments and increased military expenditure is more likely to arise from domestic political factors, in particular those related to perceived secessionist threats or to the political status and role of the armed forces. For example, the purchase by Botswana of 50 Leopard tanks, justified by the commander of the Botswana Defence Force, Ian Khama, on the grounds that they might be needed by peacekeeping, was ascribed by South African analysts as the result of the BDF commander's quest for domestic political status and influence.¹² Similarly, it is argued by many commentators that increases in Zimbabwe's defence budget in the early 1990s were a result of the political power and influence of the military rather than any perceived threat.

While demand for military equipment and resources is clearly declining in Southern Africa as a result of increasing stability and the resolution of the main intrastate conflicts, there

¹¹Information provided by Tsepe Motumi, Director, Human Resources, Defence Secretariat.

¹²Jakkie Cilliers of the Institute for Defence Policy, cited in *Weekly Mail*, 3.5.96.