

of chemical and biological products which could be used to manufacture weapons. In short, there is greater concern throughout the international community about controlling the supply of arms.

The question that now arises is whether these efforts will be successful and how transfers of weapons and dual-purpose technologies can be further restricted.

However, further consideration must also be given to the drawbacks of this approach to arms proliferation. Are export controls likely to restrict the flow of technologies for peaceful purposes to less developed countries? Do they reinforce the inequality between the great powers that have nuclear arsenals and modern weapons, and Third World countries that are forbidden to acquire modern methods of providing for their security? Have certain arms importers received special treatment because of their peculiar relationship with the great powers? In the medium or long term, does the spread of technological know-how cast doubt on the effectiveness of export controls? Furthermore, do such controls impede the development of other methods of limiting arms proliferation such as security guarantees, nuclear-free zones, openness, confidence-building measures, disarmament agreements with mutual undertakings, and the encouragement of economic and political development? All these questions need further study.

In view of these hopes and questions, the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security decided to hold an international conference on the effects attempts to restrict the supply of weapons have on non-proliferation. This topic was not chosen in order to indicate a preference for controlling supply over demand, but because it seemed the most appropriate one on which to focus our efforts. Although arms proliferation constitutes one of the Institute's main fields of research, it does not have any official policy preferring one approach to another.

After much consultation, the Institute staff decided to invite nineteen speakers and four eminent personalities to come to Ottawa on 19, 20 and 21 June 1991 to discuss non-proliferation. These internationally renowned experts responded enthusiastically to our