

transfers," and the many public statements and proposals for controlling the conventional arms trade.<sup>2</sup> It may be the case that this increased attention is merely the ephemeral product of the "window of opportunity" created by the Gulf War, but it is also true that the issue itself, whatever its profile on the international agenda, is not going to disappear.

This report provides an analytic overview of the patterns of proliferation of conventional weapons, the debates surrounding efforts to control the trade in weapons and weapons technologies, and the different approaches to the control and verification of conventional proliferation. It proceeds along the following outline:

- an overview of the "global arms transfer and production system" that highlights the motive forces that drive both producers and purchasers of weapons;
- an analysis of significant recent trends in the arms trade and arms production;
- a discussion of the implications of these trends for the control of conventional weapons proliferation;
- an assessment of specific measures (both proposed and hypothetical) to control conventional proliferation;
- a concluding discussion of a possible role for Canada in efforts to control conventional proliferation.

### **Patterns of Weapons Development, Production and Transfers**

Since the first application of metallurgical and chemical knowledge to the development of cannon and gunpowder, arms have been produced and traded among states in certain kinds of patterns.<sup>3</sup> Schematically, the "arms transfer and production" system has had five central characteristics, an understanding of which is important because it places current events in a context that helps us predict

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<sup>2</sup> Since 1991, statements on the need for control have been made by the G-7, the NATO Foreign Ministers, the OAS, the CSCE, and the Commonwealth. A wide range of NGO activities (by such groups as the Federation of American Scientists, the Center for Defense Information, Human Rights Watch, the British American Security Information Council and the Arms Control Association) have been started or expanded since 1990. On the American policy response see President Bush's address to the Air Force Academy, 29 May 1991, and the accompanying *Middle East Arms Control Initiative*, fact sheet issued by the White House.

<sup>3</sup> This account draws upon and simplifies the model presented in Keith Krause, *Arms and the State: Patterns of Military Production and Trade* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992). See also Ed Laurance, *The International Arms Trade* (New York: Lexington Books, 1992); Robert Harkavy, *The Arms Trade and International Systems* (Cambridge, Mass.: Ballinger, 1975).