

**Part B.2****1992 Publications**

201. Epstein, William. "Write Down Your Arms." *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*. Vol. 48, No. 2, March 1992, pp. 11, 12, 44.

The UN Register of Conventional Arms marks the first attempt by the UN to regulate the trade of conventional arms. Epstein argues that two factors made the creation of the Register possible: the end of the Cold War, and the Gulf War. No longer polarized by the Cold War, the international community worked together, in the wake of the Gulf War, to avoid destabilizing arms accumulations. Epstein chronicles the evolution of the concept of an arms register, through the UN vote which saw the adoption of the Register concept by a vote of 150-0. The creation of the Register was an historic achievement, endorsed by both arms importing and arms exporting nations. While granting that there is nothing legally binding states to participate, Epstein maintains that the momentum generated by the unanimous vote will guarantee wide participation. The result will be an increase in the possibility of early conflict resolution.

202. Hartung, William D. "Curbing the Arms Trade: From Rhetoric to Restraint." *World Policy Journal*. Vol. IX, No. 2, Spring 1992, pp. 219-247.

Hartung documents the calls for restraint in the arms trade following the Gulf War, and outlines the policy of the major arms suppliers since 1991 (e.g. U.S., former Soviet Union, France, Britain, China). Despite a rhetorical commitment to arms control, the reality in all arms exporting states is a continued high volume of arms sales.

He maintains that two major arms control initiatives resulted from the Gulf War: the Permanent Five Talks, and the UN Register of Conventional Arms. The former attempt has been stalled since 1991. However, the UN Register has made some progress. To begin with, it has made governments more accountable for their role in arms transfers. In addition, its creation is a starting point for a more comprehensive arms control system involving all major suppliers and recipients.

However, there are several shortcomings in the Register's structure which must be corrected. First, it does not include transfers of small arms. Second, participation is voluntary. Finally, it does not record military holdings or procurement through national production. Hartung suggests that the Register be developed into an active tool to curb arms proliferation. This task could be accomplished by requiring participation in the Register, and empowering the UN to challenge suspicious submissions.