

caches and a weapons destruction program has been made a number of times in the light weapons proliferation literature<sup>33</sup>. The desirability seems self-evident but the reality of implementation is normally not so easy. To this end it is worthwhile examining those operations where some element of micro-disarmament was involved to ascertain the issues, the problems and potential solutions.

The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) through its project on Disarmament and Conflict Resolution (DCR) is in the process of publishing 11 case studies on "Managing Arms in Peace Processes". The UNIDIR project is a systematic analysis of peace operations that included some form of micro-disarmament. As well, some other research literature has analyzed the ineffectiveness or lack of specificity in several of the same peace operations where demobilization was part of the post-conflict peace-building process.<sup>34</sup>

This section will examine some of the same missions analyzed in the UNIDIR studies and draw on their survey findings and those of other studies, as well as interviews with some Canadian military officers who participated in these operations. The issues and problems involving the micro-disarmament aspects will be addressed with a view to establishing recommendations for consideration in future UN operations where there is potential to include a micro-disarmament dimension. Only those UN missions that have specific lessons for future operations will be analyzed. In addition to selecting some key UN peace operations with a micro-disarmament element, two missions specifically dealing with regional issues involving light weapon proliferation will also be reviewed as they have significance for aspects of firearms or light weapons regulations.

The UN has conducted 42 peace operations since its inception, 26 are completed and 16 are on-going.<sup>35</sup> Several of these operations were subsequent operations in the same area: for example UNAVEM I, II and III in Angola and UNSOM I and II in Somalia. Few of these missions had a disarmament component to the mandate as the peace agreements that led

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<sup>33</sup> See Annex A Table One

<sup>34</sup> Of particular note is Jacklyn Cock. "A Sociological Account of Light Weapons Proliferation in Southern Africa," In *Light Weapons and International Security*. Nirankari Colony, Delhi: Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs, British American Security Information Council, Indian Pugwash Society, and Institute for Defence Studies and Analyzes, 1995, 101-103; Christopher Smith. "A Global Survey of Stocks and Flows of Light Weapons in the International System and a Case Study of Light Weapons Proliferation in Southern Africa." A paper delivered to the *U.N. Panel of Government Experts on Small Arms*. United Nations, New York, June 26, 1996, 15, 19, 26-31; Edward Laurence, *The New Field of Micro-Disarmament: Addressing the Proliferation and Buildup of Small Arms and Light Weapons*. Research Report Prepared for the Disarmament Section of the Foreign Ministry of the Federal Republic of Germany. California and Bonn: Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS) and the Bonn International Centre for Conversion, June 1996, Appendix 8.

<sup>35</sup> UN Department of Public Information Web Site effective 31 Sep 96