Ernie Regehr Introduction

reward countries for 'good behaviour' in the military sector -- an approach it terms 'positive linkage,' in contrast to the 'negative linkage' of conditionality."

3. And, of course, there is *conditionality* itself, defined by Ball as "the provision of an economic benefit only when its potential recipient agrees to undertake or abstain from specific actions."

The accompanying papers, written from an NGO perspective but not purporting to formally report an NGO position, support the broad objectives of reducing military spending and agree that external encouragement and even pressure can be helpful toward that end. In some instances local populations lack the level of engagement needed to support an effective domestic policy debate over levels of military spending, meaning that external pressures are generally welcome. While there is little support for direct conditionality, there is a great deal of support for international efforts to promote and support constructive domestic change.

D. Persuasion and external support:

1. There is a strong sense in the accompanying papers that the key to reducing military spending and to making more domestic resources available for development is to reduce the demand for military responses to internal and regional tensions. In turn, the pursuit of alternative, non-military approaches to enhancing security are seen to depend on democratization and good governance. External support can come through international dialogues and broad efforts to advance the idea that the security of ordinary people as well as particular regimes is enhanced by "good government, respect for human rights, economic and social development, confidence and security-building measures and the peaceful settlement of disputes through negotiation, mediation and conflict resolution." Demobilization and micro-disarmament also help to challenge the presumption in favour of military options and can benefit from external support for retraining and resettling former combatants. And, of course, regional security cooperation and confidence-building are essential to the reduction of military tensions (and thus reduce demands for high military spending).