

This paper presents a series of case studies to illustrate the impact of light weapons proliferation. The triad of South Africa (Angola, Mozambique), Southern Asia (Afghanistan) and Cambodia are analysed in turn. In each case, the history of the conflict is chronicled and the role of the superpowers in equipping insurgent groups in the 1970s is detailed. Further examples, although more brief, also serve to demonstrate the prevalence of light weapons (e.g., Somalia and Bosnia-Herzegovina).

Dikshit concludes that the "internal conflicts of today are an expression of the perpetuation of the philosophies of "Low Intensity Conflict" [i.e., proxy wars] which gained currency several decades ago" (p. 48). While ending the cycle of negative repercussions will not be easy, the first step must be the stemming of the tide of light weapons proliferation.

- 506.** Dyer, Susannah L. "Stemming the Flow of Light Weapons." A Paper Presented at the UNIDIR Conference on the Proliferation of Light Weapons in the Post-Cold War World: A Global Problem. Berlin: May 4-5, 1995.

This paper is designed to provide a "...framework for analysis of policy proposals designed to limit the global flow of light weapons" (p. 1). Some of the concepts are borrowed from those used to control major weapons systems, but Dyer cautions that efforts to adapt these proposals to deal with light weapons must acknowledge the special characteristics of these smaller weapons.

Several traditional approaches are outlined, namely transparency, oversight and control. Transparency refers "...to the amount of information that is available on countries' arms transfer policies as well as on the transfers themselves" (p. 1). Prospects to increase transparency of light weapons transfers include: expanding the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms to include light weapons; developing smaller registers tailored to regional needs; and opening up national control processes to scrutiny.

Oversight refers "...to the process of regulating arms transfers" (p. 2). Since light weapons are relatively inexpensive, very little monitoring of these weapons transfers is done. Measures to improve oversight in this field include:

- 1) integrating light weapons into the COCOM (Coordinating Committee on Export Controls) successor regime;
- 2) enforcing current legislation which bars weapons sales to states with chronic human rights abuse records;
- 3) improving national oversight mechanisms to target light weapons;
- 4) enhancing national customs regulations.

Control refers "...to the quantity or quality of weapons transferred" (p. 2). Efforts should include control of both suppliers and recipients and could include the following:

- 1) encouraging unilateral restraint;
- 2) improving domestic gun control;
- 3) eliminating/restricting certain weapons;
- 4) eliminating black market sales;
- 5) supporting regional recipient restraints.

In addition, there are several cross-cutting issues which must be addressed. Dyer argues that different policy options are available depending on the stage of conflict. For example, before a conflict starts, or in its early stages, transparency might help diffuse tension. By contrast, during a conflict, limitations should focus on supplier restraint (e.g., embargoes).

Dyer emphasizes that policy makers must be informed of the high cost of allowing light weapons proliferation to go unchecked. In addition, efforts should be made to secure reliable sources of information on light weapons transfers. Finally, coalitions must be built which draw together different individuals and groups to offer unique perspectives on the cost and consequences of light weapons proliferation.

- 507.** Dyer, Susannah L. and Natalie J. Goldring. "Analysing Policy Proposals to Limit Light Weapons Transfers." In *Light Weapons and International Security*, [Serial No. 535], ed. Jasjit Singh, Nirankari Colony, Delhi: Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs, British American Security Information Council, Indian Pugwash Society, and Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, 1995, pp. 127-139.