

This apparent failure of the government to combat gun smuggling is further exacerbated by combination of societal and institutional factors.

Law-enforcement operations are hampered by the lack of equipment, a lack of personnel to monitor exit and entry points, a lack of informants, insufficient coordination efforts of government agencies, a lack of political will and a general attitude of apathy on the part of the community.¹¹⁸ In fact, members of the "Gunless Society" had attributed the worsening peace and order situation to the "proliferation of guns in the streets and an apparently lax gun control law."¹¹⁹

The lack of sufficient personnel to monitor and conduct an inventory legitimate gun dealers and manufacturers has already been cited; this exacerbate the clandestine market for weapons.¹²⁰

Concerning monitoring operations and collection of data, shipments of firearms are treated on an individual basis, and more often the larger picture behind the operations is not considered; hence seizure are treated as individual occurrences. Futhermore, when the "task force" or intensified operations is conducted the smugglers simply "keep a low profile" and resume operations once the anti-smuggling campaign is over.

The uncoordinated efforts of the part of the many agencies¹²¹ handling law-enforcement efforts against gun smugglers undermine such operations. This is important to note that in addition to local police units, specialized units, and intelligence units of both the military and the AFP, other specialized agencies were also involved in such efforts. These include the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF), the PNP's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), and probably soon the Philippine Center on Transnational Crime (PCTC). The CIDG has seized 150 loose firearms, ammunition, and gun parts¹²² while PAOCTF has reported the confiscation of 403 firearms and the arrest of 221 suspects from a total of 84 operations.¹²³ This attitude of "competition" among agencies, as well as general security concerns in the conduct of the operations contribute to this lack of cooperation and coordination among agencies.

This confusion is exacerbated when organized crime groups join forces or otherwise

¹¹⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 3.

¹¹⁹ *The Philippine Star* (22 March 1999).

¹²⁰ PCTC paper, 17.

¹²¹ In addition to the units of the AFP and the PNP, other government agencies include the National Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Customs, and the Economic Intelligence and Investigation Bureau of the Department of Finance.

¹²² "Arsenals for home-made guns, ammo raided," *Today* (17 January 2000).

¹²³ "1999 Year-end Accomplishment Report", Philippine Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.