

PART TWO - A MODEL REGISTER

GENERAL

This section gives a suggested outline for the operation of a light weapons register.

It is assumed that there will be an international agreement among states (perhaps under the auspices of the United Nations, a regional organization, or a bilateral or multilateral grouping of like-minded states) under which the register is formulated. This group of states parties will meet to establish the parameters of the arms register and to draw up the umbrella establishing agreement.

CENTRAL ORGANIZATION

The agreement will establish a **Consultative Commission** made up of participating states which will review periodically the operation of the agreement, discuss future changes to the agreement and to give broad, general policy direction for the implementation of the agreement to a full-time Secretariat. The Consultative Commission will act like a Board of Directors or Executive Council for the register. The Consultative Commission will meet to review any periodic reports which may be called for by the agreement and to report back to national governments. Lastly, it will also be available to meet on an as-required, as-requested basis to seek clarification or explanation of the actions of participating nations before formal diplomatic action is taken. If an international organization were the sponsor of such an agreement and subsequent register, an existing body in that organization might be capable of assuming this role.

The **Secretariat** will be responsible for receiving submissions from participating states, collating them, disseminating them to participating states, maintaining appropriate databases and communications networks, and publicizing the information contained in the register. All administrative tasks such as timely reminders of deadlines, minor technical clarification and the creation and operation of a data base will be the responsibility of this staff. Again, this function might be undertaken by staff within an existing international organization, if appropriate.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

Each participant state will designate a governmental agency or official to be responsible for the submission of data to the Secretariat and to act as a contact point. This responsible agency will be referred to as the **National Authority**. It could be a division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. All contacts with the Secretariat for routine administration and submissions will