

ammunition.¹⁷ In most cases the references list only the state producers or large commercial producers that manufacture ammunition under state contract for armed forces. Missing is a plethora of smaller manufacturers that may or may not produce military small arms rounds but in all probability are quite capable of doing so.¹⁸ There is a distinct likelihood that ammunition producing states number close to 100 of which 60 indulge in some exports with 30 being significant exporters.¹⁹ While quality and quantity may vary, particularly in some of the developing countries, there is no doubt that there are many more small arms ammunition producing states than there are small arms producing states and within these states there are more ammunition manufacturers than there are small arms manufacturers.

The significance of the poor quality of ammunition produced by some developing countries may be somewhat overstated. Two references indicate that some of the worst excesses regarding the misuse of small arms and light weapons have, in the case of ammunition, direct links to non-European and non-American states. A British American Security Information Council (BASIC) study²⁰ within the African context clearly identifies the countries of Egypt, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Kenya as ammunition suppliers. Another source²¹ states that:

“U.S. officials maintain that Sudan also assists Algerian Islamists by allowing Iran to use Sudanese territory as a transit point for arms and ammunition smuggled through Chad and Niger to Algeria. The Algerian government broke relations with Iran and Sudan in 1993, charging that both Islamic regimes supported Algerian terrorists.”

Thus, from the perspective of controlling ammunition production insofar as the cartridge is concerned, diffusion of production both internationally and domestically within states would seem to present control problems greater than that for small arms. The very fact that ammunition is an expendable item, and weapons unless they are captured, destroyed or wear out over many years are not, is one of the reasons many states wish to have a modicum of ammunition self-sufficiency, particularly if they see themselves as being potentially isolated or have experienced embargos within a real or perceived national security threat. It would also appear that

¹⁷ Renner says that a UNIDIR study identified 52 states and 300 companies that produce firearms. See Michael Renner, *Small Arms, Big Impact: The Next Challenge of Disarmament* WorldWatch Paper 137., October, 1997, 32. One Internet page lists 323 Gun Makers, most in the USA see <http://www.shooters.com/cgi-bin/shotpage2?gunmakers>. The number of arms manufacturers large and small on a global basis are probably in the thousands.

¹⁸ See the paragraphs on Pakistan, the USA and Canada to appreciate the magnitude of the diffusion of ammunition manufacturing capability.

¹⁹ See Annex A for details.

²⁰ See BASIC Paper Number 23, *Africa: The Challenge of Light Weapons Destruction During Peacekeeping Operations*, Dec 1997. at <http://www.basicint.org/bpaper23.htm>

²¹ See <http://www.heritage.org/heritage/library/categories/forpol/log1060.html>