

subject, including which weapons should be limited. Despite this more positive response to arms transfer transparency, the Bush Administration maintained its position that arms sales to allies and friendly states would continue as normal. In the weeks following the Bush speech of 29 May, the Administration announced the transfer of US \$2.5 billion in weapons and technical assistance to Middle East countries.

Immediately following President Bush's speech, at the close of a bilateral Franco-German summit in Lille on 31 May 1991, President Mitterrand proposed a sweeping new global arms control and disarmament programme which would include curbs on arms transfers and measures to create transparency. Mitterrand also said that the proposals would be presented to the permanent members of the Security Council. With the London meeting of the industrialized countries now emerging as an important venue for the discussions of arms transfers, in late May, Japan also called for greater transparency in the conventional arms trade. Speaking to a UN Disarmament meeting in Kyoto, Prime Minister Kaifu promised to submit a draft resolution to the autumn 1991 meeting of the UN General Assembly calling for improved levels of candour in the international trade in conventional arms. Kaifu said that Japan would cooperate fully with the UN to develop a framework which would allow the largest possible number of states to submit data concerning the arms trade to the UN.

Meeting in Paris on 8 and 9 July 1991, representatives of the five Permanent Members of the Security Council agreed that a comprehensive programme of arms control should be implemented in the Middle East. In addition to a number of measures relating to the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, the five declared their intention to observe rules of restraint in conventional weapons transfers using national control procedures and developing guidelines on this basis. They also agreed to develop procedures for consultation and the exchange of information. A group of experts will meet in September 1991 and a second plenary meeting will take place in London in October 1991.

At the end of the London Summit of the G-7, held from 15 to 17 July 1991, the participating countries published a "Declaration on Conventional Arms Transfers and NBC Non-Proliferation." The Declaration noted that many states depend on arms imports, but distinguished this from the threat to international stability caused by the accumulation of "a massive arsenal that goes far beyond the needs of self defence." The Declaration asserted that this could be prevented by the application of the three principles of transparency, consultation and action.

The principle of *transparency* should be extended to international transfers of conventional weapons and associated military technology. As a step in this direction we support the proposal for a universal register of arms transfers under the auspices of the United Nations, and will work for its early adoption. Such a register would alert the international community to an attempt by a state to build up holdings of conventional weapons beyond a reasonable level. Information should be provided by all states on a regular basis after transfers have taken place. We also urge greater