

- What was the pattern of accumulation of conventional armaments on both sides prior to the outbreak of conflict (or the absence of conflict in the cases where accumulations did not lead to conflict)?
- How were these build-ups perceived by the primary regional actors and/or their major supporters and supplier states?
- In those cases where build-ups were a major factor in the outbreak of conflict, what were the perceived characteristics of the weapons systems (qualitative and quantitative) which made them destabilizing (or stabilizing in the case of no conflict)?
- What was the nature of the consultative process among actors (organization, communications, etc.) in each of the cases examined?

Focused Comparison of International Institutions and Their Consultative Mechanisms

Utilizing the generalizations and policy relevant theory generated in the first part of the research, the project then addresses the potential range of consultative mechanisms which might employ the data generated by the UN Register or other transparency mechanisms. The first step is to evaluate the role that existing organizations play or can play in the utilization of the Register as a tool for preventive diplomacy. Organizations to be studied include the UN Centre for Disarmament Affairs (UNCDA), the UN organization charged with administering the Register. At present, this organization plays a minimal role and its expansion into a consultative mechanism will require significant expansion and development. This will not occur without a consensus of the major arms supplier states, especially the United States. This research is expected to produce major policy recommendations regarding the use of UNCDA as the focal point of consultative activity. In addition to the UNCDA the project will take advantage of the extensive experience and research conducted in the International Organizations and Nonproliferation project at the Monterey Institute of International Studies to evaluate the consultative processes of other international institutions which might provide lessons learned. These include the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Particularly important will be the study of regional organizations. From the beginning of the Register exercise its founders and developers have recognized that while a universal and nondiscriminatory Register was essential as a first step, transparency in armaments must eventually be applied at the regional level. In this regard both the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) have begun to consider adopting a regional version of the arms register. In addition to both of these organizations, the experience of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) will be examined in detail, since it has transparency in armaments and dispute settlement procedures in place.