

that one major obstacle to arms controls was often forgotten; namely, there was no agreement on the general primary objective of controls on conventional arms. Was it to safeguard the security of the industrialized world or of the Third World?

Ms. Neuman outlined the main factors favouring arms controls. The end of the Cold War, she said, made it possible to limit arms shipments to certain regions of the Third World. The decline of the USSR rendered it technologically dependent on the United States and heavily in need of a stable international environment. The United States was now the only superpower and its domination of the arms market was total. Its lead in R&D was so great that any country that wished to modernize its equipment needed American technology. The American market for military products was the largest in the world and was vitally important to many secondary exporters, including Canada. However, imports took only a small fraction (5 to 15 percent) of the American market. In conclusion, the United States' domination of the arms market enabled it to exercise enormous influence over arms controls. Structural changes in the market (an 18 percent decline in world arms imports between 1984 and 1988) were making life difficult for competitors of the United States. The Europeans, including the French, were discovering that they could not produce all their arms and would soon have to import more from the United States.

In the last part of her talk, Ms. Neuman proposed some methods for reducing weapons sales. First, an answer has to be provided to the question: why should conventional arms sales be controlled? Is it in order to promote regional balances or to enhance the security of the United States? Second, the public must be better informed in order to reduce its expectations regarding general, complete disarmament. The latter is impossible, according to Ms. Neuman, and it would be better for people to cultivate more modest and achievable goals. Third, emphasis should be placed on qualitative limits on weapons exports rather than on general limits. Fourth, producers need to reach some agreement on the definition of a critical technology or weapons system. The American government has established working groups on this question. On the international level, the United Nations could play an active role in this undertaking. Arms purchasers should