

international law" (p. 10). Attempts must be made to eradicate this phenomenon. Suggestions are made for actions to be taken by each UN member state at the national, international and institutional level.

In the section on national efforts, special mention is made of the destructive nature of small arms and light weapons and their negative influence on regional and international peace and security, and on national security. To combat the problem of illicit arms trafficking, each state should:

- 1) ensure that it has adequate national legislation to control arms transfers;
- 2) attempt to eradicate bribery and corruption in connection with arms transfers;
- 3) establish and maintain effective export and import licenses;
- 4) obtain an import certificate from the receiving state covering exported arms;
- 5) provide for adequate numbers of customs officials;
- 6) define which weapons are appropriate only for military use;
- 7) take into account the relevant recommendations of INTERPOL (International Police).

At the international level, each state should:

- 1) require import or verifiable end-user certificates for international arms transfers;
- 2) cooperate with other states to combat illegal arms trafficking;
- 3) develop and enhance the application of compatible legislative and administrative standards;
- 4) comply strictly with United Nations embargoes;
- 5) report all relevant transactions to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms;
- 6) regulate private arms dealers.

Institutional arrangements can also help to curb the illicit traffic in armaments. The United Nations has a role to play in orchestrating efforts to control this traffic. In addition, states are called upon to "...use and further develop mechanisms for the exchange of information at the global, regional and subregional levels in order to assist institutions engaged in the control, tracking and seizure of arms in making full-scale efforts to eradicate illicit arms trafficking" (p. 14).

I-10. Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission. *Meeting of the Group of Experts on the Control of Arms and Explosives Related to Drug Trafficking, Final Report*. Caracas, Venezuela: Organization of American States (OAS/Ser.L/Xiv.2 CICAD/AREX/doc.13/96 rev.1), May 21-24, 1996.

Under the auspices of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), a Group of Experts on the Control of Arms and Explosives Related to Drug Trafficking has been formed with the view to studying the development of a *Model Regulation for the Control of Illegal Traffic of Arms and Explosives Related to Drug Trafficking*. A series of meetings of this Group have been held. Most recently in May 1996 the Group of Experts made progress towards these goals. Recommendations were made dealing, among other things, with the use of common information on import and export certificates; the sharing and exchange of information relating to the criminal use of firearms; the organization of systems within countries to regulate firearms, ammunition and explosives regarding identification, ownership and possession; as well as the re-exportation of munitions, explosives and firearms.

I-11. United Nations. *United Nations Survey on Firearm Regulation: Guidelines and Questionnaire*. May 1996.

The General Assembly on 18 December 1991 (Resolution 46/152) passed a resolution entitled "Creation of an effective United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme". This was taken up by the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (Cairo 1995). That Congress passed a resolution later endorsed by the Economic and Social Council entitled "Firearms Regulation for the Purposes of Crime Prevention and Public Safety". Among other things the resolution requested the Secretary General to initiate a study to examine a variety of issues relating to firearms regulation including the nature and extent of firearms smuggling and trafficking in countries and the measures taken to combat the problem. This study is a cornerstone of United Nations activity on this subject; it is impossible to measure the extent of the problem of the illicit movement of firearms without an adequate database on all matters relating to firearms. The Study Group has recently approved a *Survey on Firearm Regulation* and sent it out to some 80 countries. The analysis of the results of this survey should be completed by late 1996. A second phase of the