

improvement would be the creation of a consultative mechanism to discuss the motivations for weapons acquisitions. Making arms transfers contingent on their being declared to the Register would also help. Finally, to avoid charges of discrimination, military holdings and procurement through national production should be included.

505. Laurance, Edward J. "Addressing the Negative Consequences of Light Weapons Trafficking: Opportunities for Transparency and Restraint." In *Lethal Commerce: The Global Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons: A Collection of Essays from a Project of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences*, eds. Jeffrey Boutwell, Michael T. Klare and Laura W. Reed, Cambridge, Massachusetts: Committee on International Security Studies, 1995, pp. 140-157.

Although focusing on ways to regulate the trade in small arms, Laurance makes detailed reference to the UN Register of Conventional Arms. As a result of two factors (the end of the Cold War, and a desire to avoid another arms build-up similar to the one which preceded the Gulf War), a new spirit of international cooperation has emerged. The Register is a product of this new atmosphere.

The Register differs from traditional multilateral arms control approaches in several respects: first, it assumes an international norm against allowing the accumulation of excessive and destabilizing collections of armaments; second, it legitimizes the arms trade by recognizing the right of states to import weapons for self-defence; third, it is not a control mechanism and contains no formal verification process; fourth, it is based on the concept of transparency and is a confidence-building exercise; and, finally, it assumes that after a period of years, trends towards excessive and destabilizing accumulations of arms will become evident.

Laurance concludes that the Register's performance in its first two years has been positive. However, for a variety of reasons, there were discrepancies in some reports: no clear definition of "arms transfers" was offered; some governments still hold reservations about transparency and did not participate; some states have domestic legislation which precludes the disclosure of arms transfers; and, finally, some countries lack the control mechanisms required to produce the report. If small arms transfers are to be included in the Register, a clear link must be established between the transfer of small arms and the outbreak of conflict. As an interim solution, the inclusion of small arms transfers in regional registers is suggested. However, securing the political consensus required for even this initial step will be a difficult, if not impossible, task.

506. Sislin, John and Siemon Wezeman. *1994 Arms Transfers: A Register of Deliveries From Public Sources*. Monterey, California: Monterey Institute of International Studies and Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, March 1995.

Sislin and Wezeman compare the arms registers of the UN Register of Conventional Arms and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). They maintain that there are three major differences between the two reports: first, the coverage in the