

Part B.1

1991 Publications

101. Macdonald, Mary K. "An Arms Control Phoenix: Building Transparency Through an Arms Trade Register." PhD Thesis, Kingston, Ontario, Canada: Queen's University, September 1991.

Macdonald examines whether states see an arms trade register as a viable way to promote transparency in the international arms trade. Writing before the formal creation of the UN Register of Conventional Arms, she evaluates its chances for success. A parallel is drawn between the UN Register concept and similar attempts made by the League of Nations in the 1920s. She concludes that current proposals demonstrate "little new thinking."

Macdonald studies a wide range of issues related to the register concept: first, the evolution of the concept, dating from the First World War; second, the measures taken in the years following the Second World War (e.g. Conventional Arms Transfer Talks); third, the patterns of the arms trade in the post-war world and the calls for transparency; fourth, the work of the UN Panel of Experts convened to study the viability of an arms transfer register; fifth, analogues to an arms register (e.g. Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), and Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)); and, finally, Canada's position on transparency in armaments.

Macdonald argues that to create a register, a hegemonic leadership (state or group of states) must be willing to bear the costs of establishing it. Moreover, the register must be promoted as a multilateral concept more efficient than alternative unilateral or bilateral measures. In addition, states must be convinced that the benefits of such a regime outweigh the costs.

Once a register has been established, Macdonald maintains, its success will depend on four factors: first, a high participation rate; second, a willingness on the part of states to comply with reporting regulations; third, a desire to contribute meaningful and significant information; and, finally, an independent mechanism to resolve disputes. If these criteria are present, then an arms transfer register would be a valuable confidence-building measure. In addition, it would facilitate more far-reaching arms control agreements. The greater the information supplied to it, the greater its utility will be. Macdonald cautions, however, against relying on an arms transfer register as an ultimate solution; the search for an effective arms control measure must continue.

102. Regehr, Ernie. "A Seat at the Arms Dealers' Table." *The Ploughshares Monitor*. Vol. XII, No. 3, September 1991, pp. 10-13.

Regehr argues that it was fear of another Gulf War which provided the impetus for the creation of the UN Register of Conventional Arms. He maintains that the Register is the right solution, but to a different problem. Contrary to public perception, the Gulf War was "not even marginally" (p. 10) the result of an unanticipated build-up of arms. The