

addressed, there is little hope of damping the desire of the disadvantaged to seek the tools to rectify those disparities by violent means."²⁷

The first regional workshop convened by the UN Panel of Government Experts on Small Arms held in Pretoria from 23 to 25 September 1996 identified five major issues relevant to light weapons proliferation. There was a strong demand element in three of the major issues: an absence of adequate avenues for gainful employment, restricted economic opportunities and rising expectations and mutual vulnerability to each others internal issues in part based on ethnic affinity.²⁸

Recent studies show that 91 of 96 armed conflicts accounted for in the last seven years (1989 - 1995) were intrastate.²⁹ Many of these were ethnic in nature. In terms of the ethnic component to these wars the catalyst was according to one source "collective fears of the future".³⁰ In essence, conflict occurs because the state becomes weak and is perceived as unable to control events that effect the welfare and security of its constituents. Frequently ethnic differences are seized on by agitators to explain or exploit this lack of security. It is partially within the context of "fear for the future" that the demand for, and violent use of light weapons should be seen.

There appears to be a dilemma evident in some of the literature in addressing the demand side of the equation in light weapons proliferation. It centres around the idea of legal and legitimate; just and unjust; order and disorder. These issues are difficult to address as they are often subjective and sometimes involve choices in which neither solution is particularly attractive. Is the legal government the legitimate government? Is the sub-national group involved in a just or unjust conflict and is order (an absence of armed conflict) more important than disorder (armed conflict) even if it means a just war against an illegitimate government to correct social injustices must be terminated? In other words when does the ends justify the means? These are moral issues that some authors acknowledge directly or indirectly and then move into safer and more quantifiable domains such as supply

²⁷R.T. Naylor, "Loose Cannons: Covert Commerce and Underground Finance in the Modern Arms Black Market," In *Crime, Law and Social Change*. Netherlands: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1995, 51

²⁸Letter dated 3 Oct 96 to DFAIT from Swadesh Rana, Secretary Panel of Governmental Experts on Small Arms. UN

²⁹Peter Wallensteen & Margaret Sollenberg. "The End of International War? Armed Conflict 1989-95." *Journal of Peace Research* Vol 33 No 3 August 1996, 353-370.

³⁰ David Lake, Donald Rothchild. "Containing Fear: The Origins and Management of Ethnic Conflict." *International Security*. Vol. 21, No. 2 (Fall 1996), 41-75.