

the Federal Republic of Germany – account for about 72 per cent of world military spending, about 96 per cent of all research and development for military purposes, 90 per cent of all military exports and 95 per cent of exports of major weapons to developing countries.

It is understandable that the developing countries prefer to look at the vast armaments expenditures of the developed countries, and to emphasize the economic motivation for disarmament. But military spending must also be seen relative to the wealth of the countries concerned. It is, therefore, appropriate that the military expenditures of the developing countries also be examined.

These countries have about 50 per cent of the world's population and account for only 14 per cent of the world's military expenditures, with China accounting for more than two-thirds of this. But while they appear small in the global context, the arms budgets of developing countries loom much larger when compared to their limited resources and their urgent social and economic needs. Unfortunately, the growth rate of these expenditures is running ahead of average world rates, and their share has risen from 6 per cent ten years ago to 14 per cent today.

But it would be misleading to assume that all developing countries have increased military spending at the same rate. In South America, for example, the rate of increase was lower in the five years prior to 1978 than in the five preceding years. In addition, a large part of the over-all increase among less developed countries is accounted for among Middle East countries, whose average annual growth in military spending has been 13.5 per cent in each of the last ten years, compared to a NATO [North Atlantic Treaty Organization] average expenditure growth of less than 3 per cent. Although increased spending in the Middle East has been due in large part to the tensions there, it is generally true that the higher the income of developing countries, the more rapid the increase in military spending. For example, the military expenditures of OPEC countries [Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries] increased at an average of 15 per cent annually over the past ten years. Among non-oil-producing developing countries, it increased at a rate of 7.5 per cent among those with higher incomes and at only 3.5 per cent among those with lower incomes.

But the burden of military spending is most effectively measured as a percentage of gross national product. In this respect, the Middle East far surpasses other regions of the world. The defence budgets of 11 countries of that region absorb 17 per cent of their GNP. Egypt's burden, for example, was more than 25 per cent of its GNP in the mid-Seventies; NATO, Warsaw Pact countries and most of the Far Eastern countries average around 4 per cent of GNP, while 32 African countries average 2.5 per cent.

#### Conventional armaments

When considering military expenditures, we should keep in mind that 80 per cent of all spending is on conventional armaments. While we cannot minimize the nuclear threat, we have to remember that conventional weapons have been used to kill 25 million people in 133 wars since the end of the Second World War. For this reason, Canada holds the view that disarmament efforts must not be directed solely to the nuclear threat.