

flows of capital to developing countries” is vitally important and that this end can be served by disarmament in industrialized countries provided that portions of the resulting budgetary savings would be used to support a “development fund.” In 1973, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution to promote the “reduction of the military budgets of states members of the Security Council by 10% and utilization of part of the funds thus saved to provide assistance to developing countries....”⁹

Indeed, the political credibility of calls for spending cuts in developing countries depend on industrial countries also addressing their excessive military spending, inasmuch as “encouraging military reform in the South gains legitimacy when combined with military reform in the North.”¹⁰

It is also clear that, to the extent that there is an emerging international consensus in support of minimizing military spending, it is not oriented toward the identification of particular “problem” countries. Rather, the problem is defined as the overall diversion for military purposes of scarce capital away from direct support of constructive social development. The objective therefore is defined as the elimination of all military spending that is not absolutely essential for security reasons.

C. Means of persuasion:

Whether the focus of global measures to reduce military expenditures is on particular countries thought to be outside the global norm, or whether it is on a general effort to reduce such spending, becomes especially important when discussion turns to appropriate means of mounting

⁹ United Nations Department of Political and Security Affairs, “Reduction of the Military Budgets of States Members of the Security Council by 10% and Utilization of Part of the Funds Thus Saved to Promote Assistance to Developing Countries.” Report of the Secretary-General (New York: United Nations, 1975). As quoted by Uvin and Biagiotti, p. 392.

¹⁰ Nicole Ball, *Pressing for Peace: Can Aid Induce Reform?* (Washington: Overseas Development Council, 1992), p. 1.