



update



Working towards the prevention of armed conflict

UK Government publishes draft arms export bill

MORE THAN FIVE YEARS after the *Scott Report* called for new legislation to govern UK arms exports, the Government on 29 March published a draft Export Control and Non-Proliferation Bill. The draft Bill and the accompanying Department of Trade & Industry (DTI) consultation document is a significant step forward in trying to prevent the transfer of arms by UK companies and citizens into conflict or human rights crisis zones, and includes measures to tighten regulation of arms brokers and licensed overseas production. However, a number of potential loopholes remain which, if not addressed, could undermine the effectiveness of the legislation.

Brokering and shipping
It is welcome that, for the first time all persons in the UK and UK persons abroad, who broker the transfer of arms

from one overseas destination to another will require a licence. However, the Government has yet to decide whether to extend this requirement to UK passport-holding arms brokers who conduct their activities wholly abroad. Failure to include this activity in the legislation would mean that British citizens could evade these controls by simply stepping out of the country. Another concern is the lack of proposals in the draft Bill to control freight agents. In recent years, a number of UK companies have been implicated in the shipment of arms from countries outside the UK into regions of conflict. It is essential that these activities are regulated.

End-use monitoring
The Government has stated that it is now taking greater consideration of the possibility of arms being diverted to undesirable users or usage when assessing licence applications, and has already put in place additional procedures to avert this.

However, considering past concerns over the use of UK-made Hawk aircraft in Indonesia, it is regrettable that there is no mention in the draft Bill of a new system to monitor the end-use of arms after export. Saferworld has proposed a system of legally-binding end-use undertakings with provision for follow-up checks to be made by relevant embassy staff.

Control of licensed production overseas
The Government has acknowledged the need to address the problem of arms manufactured overseas under licence from UK companies, and has stated its intention to advocate changes to the EU Code of Conduct to address the issue. However, the proposed controls do not go far enough. The DTI paper proposes further consultation on this issue, but the proposals focus on agreements between companies to control exports to embargoed destinations.

Continued on page 2



Saferworld urges UK politicians to think globally

Saferworld is an active member of Global View 2001, an alliance of 24 charities, campaigning organisations and churches with over three million supporters, working together to ensure that international issues do not fall off the agenda in the run up to the General Election.

Saferworld has been working with a number of key politicians to make sure that arms and conflict prevention issues form part of the main political parties' manifestos and are at the top of their agenda. In addition, Saferworld has produced pledge cards for the election campaign, asking supporters to question election candidates about their commitments on international issues.

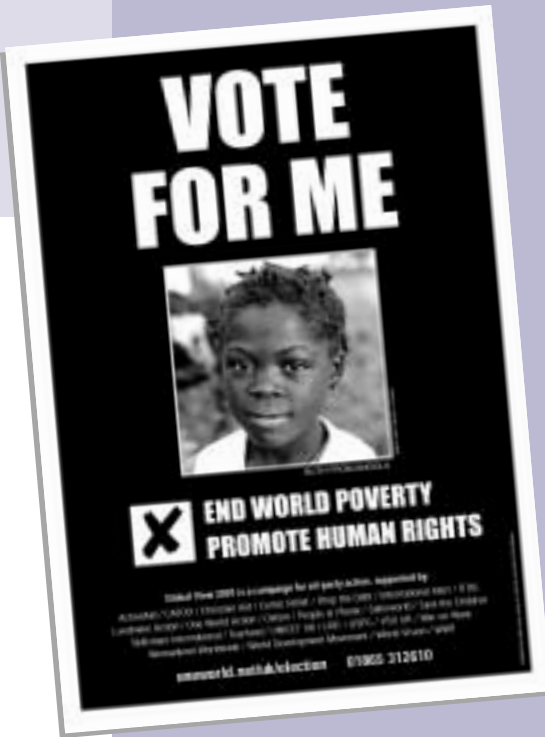
After the election Saferworld will seek to maintain and build new contacts on arms and conflict issues with members of parliament, ministers and government officials

Media report

In February 2001, the Government faced a fresh arms scandal over the refurbishment of Moroccan guns in Western Sahara. Saferworld renewed its call for the introduction of prior parliamentary scrutiny measures in order to avoid a repetition of this and other controversies such as the applications of spare parts for Hawk jets in Zimbabwe last year.

In March, media attention focused on the publication of the QSC Select Committee Report with recommendations for prior scrutiny. Saferworld was quoted on the issue on several occasions on BBC News on-line and the *Independent* newspaper. Andy McLean, Saferworld's Communication Manager, was interviewed on the BBC Radio 4's Today Programme.

After the publication of the draft Bill on Arms Exports, Saferworld was quoted in the *Financial Times* and the *Guardian*



Continued from front cover

Saferworld has argued that licensed production agreements should be between governments and not companies, and should not be limited to embargoed countries. For example, governments could agree a list of destinations to which exports would be permitted, and that licenced production agreements should themselves require a licence from the Government. It is disappointing that these options are not included in the DTI consultation document.

Parliamentary scrutiny

Since the *Scott Report*, significant progress has been made in opening up the UK export licensing system to parliamentary and public oversight. The decision to place the publication of the Annual Report on Strategic Export Controls on a statutory footing is another welcome step in this process. However, the draft Bill does not legislate for prior parliamentary scrutiny of arms export licence applications. The joint Quadripartite Select Committee (QSC), comprising the Defence, Foreign Affairs, International Development, and Trade & Industry Committees, has argued that a system of prior parliamentary scrutiny should be introduced in the UK. The initial QSC recommendations for prior scrutiny were rejected by the Government last year and

in March the QSC put forward amended proposals designed to address the Government's concerns. The Government has promised to consider these new proposals as part of the consultation process for the Bill. Saferworld has urged full adoption of the Committee's recommendations.

Legally binding criteria

The draft Bill includes a list of 'purposes' for export control. This is an important inclusion, but is not nearly as comprehensive as the list of criteria included in the EU Code of Conduct, particularly the criteria relating to human rights and development. Saferworld would like to

see the whole Code incorporated into the legislation, in order to encourage its rigorous implementation.

Saferworld's work continues

The Government has allowed eight weeks, until 24 May 2001, for comment on the draft. Saferworld will be taking this opportunity to work with the Government, parliamentarians and the media to continue to press for the potential loopholes to be closed. Saferworld will also lobby for the draft Bill to be incorporated in the next Queen's speech in order that the Bill is turned into effective legislation at the earliest possible date

New controls

- Licences required for arms sales brokered from the UK
- Brokering of arms to embargoed destinations and of torture equipment to any destination is prohibited
- Obligation to publish an Annual Report on Strategic Export Controls
- Controls extended to cover intangible transfer of technology
- 'Purposes' of export control included in legislation
- Maximum prison term for export control offences increased from seven to ten years

Potential loopholes

- No firm commitment to regulate arms brokering by UK passport-holders operating wholly abroad
- No regulation of shipping agents
- No controls proposed to monitor the end-use of UK arms exports
- Weak control of licensed arms production overseas
- The lack of legally-binding criteria for arms exports as comprehensive as those contained in the EU Code of Conduct

Community policing and small arms control in Malawi

IN AN EXCITING new development, Saferworld is to engage in a grass-roots project in Malawi on community policing and the control of small arms.

Influx of small arms

Since the mid 1990s, Malawi and surrounding countries have witnessed an upsurge in armed crime. This has been fuelled by an inflow of small arms from violent conflicts in Mozambique and Central Africa, as well as from the regional circulation of firearms resulting from a lack of domestic control of arms in state and private possession. Saferworld together with its partner, the Institute of Security Studies in Pretoria, has helped bring together senior government officials and police officers from countries in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to develop a joint approach to the problem. However, in many countries, a history of human rights abuses by unprofessional and unaccountable police and security forces has generated an atmosphere of suspicion and mistrust within communities, which makes it difficult to secure the cooperation of the public to counter armed violence and stem the flow of small arms.

Police and community relations

The problem of poor police-community relations has proved particularly acute in Malawi. Despite the advent of democracy in 1994, 30 years of brutality and repression under the dictator Dr Hastings Banda have left their mark on the Malawi Police Service (MPS) and on the attitudes of local people to the police force. Under Banda's rule the Malawian police force, dubbed the 'Young Pioneers', served the needs of the regime, rather than those of the community. Thousands of people disappeared or were murdered during this period. Over the past few years, the Malawi police have engaged in a police reform programme, which has been supported by the UK Department for International Development (DFID). The programme has sought to encourage the

development of a police service in line with the new democratic conditions and international human rights principles.

Taking a holistic approach to tackling small arms

Encouraged by the Norwegian Initiative on Small Arms Transfers (NISAT), two local NGOs, the Public Affairs Committee (PAC) and the Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation (CHRR), have worked with the local community to build up a supportive environment for the police reform programme to develop. In September 1999 a year-long pilot project was launched in Malawi by NISAT, PAC and CHRR. The aim of this was to build cooperation between strategic sectors of civil society, especially poor communities, and police from the grass-roots level upwards. The project was coordinated by the International Peace Research Institute, Oslo, the Public Affairs Committee of Malawi and the Malawi Centre of Human Rights and Rehabilitation, and funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Saferworld, Amnesty International and the Institute for Security Studies supported the work. An important focus of this project has been to alert communities to the dangers of small arms, and to develop levels of trust so that individuals feel confident to report armed crime and share information on the illicit trade of small arms. This has involved helping in the development and training of over three hundred police community groups across the country, and developing media and education campaigns about the danger of small arms.



Moving the project forward

Saferworld has been an advisor during the pilot phase of the project. However, Saferworld now plans to take on a more central role and work with Norwegian Church Aid, the Public Affairs Committee of Malawi and the Malawi Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation to take the project into its next phase. This will involve consolidating the model developed in Malawi by helping to turn the growing commitment of all stakeholders into strategic, practical action, in addition to seeking to initiate at least two further pilot projects in the region using a similar methodology.

Integrating advocacy and programme work - reforming the security sector

The Malawi model addresses the linkages between tackling small arms proliferation and reforming the security sector and brings together core aspects of the work being pursued under Saferworld's arms and security and conflict prevention programmes. In its research and advocacy work on enhancing the capacity of the EU to prevent violent conflict, Saferworld has long argued that reform of the security sector is a vital prerequisite for the prevention of conflict and the promotion of sustainable development. As the violence being experienced in Malawi is largely associated with armed crime and banditry and is at a relatively low level, the project has a preventative rationale very much attuned to Saferworld's core ethos ●

Key activities undertaken during the pilot phase included:

- Conducting research and analysis of the scope of the problem of armed crime and sources of small arms in Malawi
- Enhancing public awareness of the dangers of small arms proliferation and of the need for community policing
- Initiating proposals for legal reform, especially of the Police and Firearms Acts
- Assisting the Malawi Police, the main donor DFID, and communities most affected by armed violence to promote and expand the capacity of Community Policing Fora, Crime Prevention Panels and Crime Prevention Committees
- Helping with the establishment of a training programme for community-based police-civil liaison groups

"Whilst we are talking, there are on-going crises in the world. However, we are working in the right direction. The EU can make a real contribution towards the construction of peace and stability in the world. Not only because it is a major actor on the international scene and the world's largest aid donor, but even more because the EU was itself born from a war, and was designed so as to prevent conflicts. The search for peace is one of the founding reasons for the EU's existence."

Chris Patten, Commissioner for External Relations, April 2001

Working with the EU

Progress on conflict prevention

AT LAST conflict prevention is firmly on the EU's agenda, and the past few months have seen a flurry of policy initiatives. However more concrete commitments are still needed and policy still has to be put into practice. Saferworld is working to ensure that this happens. The paper produced by Saferworld, International Alert and their partners in the European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation, 'Preventing violent conflict – Opportunities for the Swedish and Belgian Presidencies of the European Union in 2001' is being used by governments as a background document in a number of important discussions.

Patten/Solana conflict prevention paper

The report 'Improving the coherence and effectiveness of EU action in the field of conflict prevention' presented at the Nice summit in December 2000 by Javier Solana, the EU's High Representative and Chris Patten, the Commissioner for

External Relations was a high profile initiative. The report elevated the debate to heads of state level and makes a compelling case for preventive action. However, whilst it does identify some key areas for action, it is short on concrete proposals to follow these through.

Commission communication on conflict prevention

As a positive policy follow-up, in April the European Commission adopted a 'Communication on Conflict Prevention.' Saferworld made an earlier submission to the Commission outlining key areas to be addressed. It is welcome that the document contains a comprehensive review of all recent EU initiatives to promote peace and stability and proposes a consolidated EU approach to conflict prevention.

Linking conflict prevention to development assistance

Conflict prevention is also an objective of the new EC Development Policy, which focuses on poverty reduction and requires that development assistance

should be targeted to address the root causes of violent conflict. In a submission to a consultation paper produced by the UK Department of International Development (DFID) on its strategy for engaging with the EC, Saferworld has called on DFID to take a lead role in ensuring the translation of policy into practice.

Swedish programme of action on conflict prevention

The Swedish Government has said that it hopes to agree a "concrete programme for conflict prevention" at the European Council summit in Gothenburg in June 2001. Saferworld has helped organise a meeting in Brussels in April between Ambassadors from Member States who sit on the newly created Political and Security Committee and NGO members of the European Peace Building Liaison Office, to discuss priorities and issues for the programme to address. Saferworld led in organising and facilitating a workshop at a conference in May in Gripsholm, Sweden, on 'The EU and policies for preventing violent conflict'.

Strengthening arms export controls

Transparency report published

In January, as part of Saferworld's continuing work to promote responsible practice in arms export controls, Saferworld published a report entitled *Transparency and Accountability in the European Arms Trade: Towards Common Standards and Best Practice*. The *Scott Report* into the arms to Iraq affair showed that when decisions on arms exports are made in secret, there is a risk that the short-term commercial gain may override concerns for human rights and regional security. Transparency and scrutiny are crucial to ensure better decision-making by governments and to ensure that the public can hold governments to account. All governments in the EU now have to assess arms exports against the criteria of the EU Code of Conduct. However, as the Code is not

legally binding, it is vital that governments publish their arms exports if their adherence to the code is to be monitored.

In the face of growing pressure from Saferworld and NGOs across the EU, 12 governments now publish annual reports of arms sales. However, standards vary and much more could be done to improve transparency across the EU. Saferworld's report provides a detailed country-by-country survey of transparency and accountability in each of the 15 EU Member States. The best practice it highlights is in Sweden where a committee of MPs advises the government before it grants arms export licences. Saferworld is pushing for a similar system to be introduced in the UK and other EU member states.

EU meetings on arms export controls
Saferworld convened an informal meet-

ing of EU government officials in Brussels in January to discuss key arms export control issues. Discussion focused on how best to control arms brokering and shipping, and how the EU Code of Conduct could be strengthened. Officials from most EU governments attended and welcomed the opportunity to openly exchange ideas and experience. The issue of corruption in the arms trade, which until recently has received little attention, was also examined. This was developed in April when Saferworld participated in a conference on 'Corruption by Transparency International and the Swedish Foreign Ministry. Saferworld will work throughout the year to encourage the inclusion of these developments in the October Annual Review of the EU Code of Conduct ●

Conflict prevention workshop in the Horn of Africa



Oil exploration in Africa.
BETTY PRESS/
PANOS PICTURES

THE NEW PHASE OF Saferworld's conflict prevention project in the Horn of Africa focuses on assessing the impact of EU engagement in the region with a view to develop recommendations for reform. It also seeks to provide a channel to be conveyed and have substantive input into EU policy.

In March, in Addis Ababa in Ethiopia, Saferworld, in collaboration with NGO partners Africa Peace Forum (Kenya) and the Inter Africa Group (Ethiopia), organised a seminar and workshop bringing together representatives from the Horn, EU Governments and civil society.

Participants voiced their concerns about critical conflict risks over access to resources, such as water, land, and oil. A series of recommendations for enhancing EU effectiveness in addressing the risks was developed. The meeting was significant in providing many participants from the region with their first opportunity to raise issues directly with EU officials.

Civil society capacity building

Following the seminar, a training workshop was held to allow civil society representatives to build their knowledge of how the EU works and how they can

influence its policies. A number of personal testaments provided insights into how advocacy could be used effectively to change EU policies and practices. The workshop also allowed participants to discuss the Cotonou Agreement, the new aid and trade agreement of government co-operation between the EU and 77 African, Caribbean and Pacific States. This agreement explicitly recognises the links between development and conflict prevention and commits the EU to engaging with civil society. However the EU is still working on mechanisms for engaging civil society and defining how it will 'mainstream' its existing conflict prevention objectives throughout its different policies. If the EU is to fulfil its policy commitments in the Horn, it is crucial that these mechanisms are established to ensure that civil society is involved in all phases of projects.

Next steps

Saferworld will organise a follow up seminar in Brussels in June where the seminar recommendations will be discussed with European decision makers. Additionally Saferworld and partners will hold a series of workshops throughout the Horn region to raise awareness of the EU, the Cotonou Agreement and to develop more effective mechanisms for views of civil society to inform EU policy

The oil industry and conflict in Sudan

Thousands of people have been displaced in Southern Sudan since large-scale production began two years ago. Civilians, already suffering in the civil conflict which has devastated Sudan for decades, have been subjected to increased levels of human rights abuses. Violence has escalated as the Government in the North has sought to clear more land for exploration. The finances from oil are being spent, in part on the domestic arms industry and on arms imports. Sudan currently spends \$1 million a day on pursuing the war, a figure roughly equivalent to the proceeds reaped from oil extraction. Companies from Asia, Sweden, Canada and the UK, have helped build Sudan's oil industry and are now profiting from production. Extracting oil from a country at war can have serious humanitarian consequences. Companies are ignoring the links between their activities and the escalation of violence. If the EU is serious about its foreign investment and coherence of all its instruments it will need to both examine and address the role of investment in conflict-affected countries.

Pastoralism in Kenya

The linkage between small arms, land, pastoralism and violence is an important concern in northern Kenya where the growth of commercial ranches has exacerbated competition for water and pasture between pastoralists and ranchers and among pastoralists themselves. Pastoralists, who are largely nomadic, require large tracts of land for the maintenance of their livelihoods. As ranches now take up to 70% of available land in some areas, access to pasture has decreased dramatically. The proliferation of small arms in the area has also proved devastating. Pastoralists have a long history of cattle raiding (rustling) that is a cultural and economic phenomenon. However cattle rustling is now at unprecedented levels in terms of numbers of people killed and injured and in the numbers of cattle stolen. Unresolved land issues, cattle rustling and arms proliferation now threaten human security and the prospects for long-term peace and development. In order for long-term security to be established in the region, the EU should support programmes that address the issue of small arms, based at a district level. These programmes should be linked to cross border programmes aimed at increasing the capacity of local communities to manage their own resources and security.

Charcoal in Somalia

As a result of Somalia's civil war, the ability of administrations and communities to control access to natural resources has decreased dramatically. Forests are being destroyed as profits from the charcoal trade expand and are used by war lords to fuel instability. The impact of this trade also increases poverty at local levels. Communities often do not benefit from the trade, which is exploited by militia with trade links to the Arab world. The EU and other donors could play a key role in afforestation programmes, developing and funding sustainable energy projects, income diversification projects for traders, and reintegration programmes for youth and former militia.



Small arms in Kashmir.
MARTIN ADLER/
PANOS PICTURES

Saferworld extends small arms work to South Asia

IN FEBRUARY Saferworld and two Indian NGOs, the South Asia Partnership-India (SAP-India) and the Peace and Human Rights Bureau, held a workshop in New Delhi on 'Small Arms Proliferation – Threat to Internal Security and World Peace'. Around 40 participants, including local NGO representatives, academics, legal practitioners, senior army officials, and other Indian government officials attended the workshop. Officials from the UK and Canadian governments, and the International Committee of the Red Cross, were also present.

The original aim of the meeting was to raise awareness of the small arms and light weapons issue in India, and exchange ideas in the run up to the UN Conference on small arms in July. However, the Delhi workshop became part of a larger regional initiative organised by the Canadian government and the South Asia Partnership and was one of five small arms meetings that took place in national capitals (in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal) in February. Discussions are now taking

place as to how to translate these national workshops into a regional action agenda both in the lead up, and as a follow-up to the UN Conference.

Regional approach to peace building
The complex security situation in South Asia certainly requires the development of a strong regional approach to the problem of small arms proliferation. Such proliferation continues to act as a barrier to internal and regional peace and security, fuelling continued ethnic and religious tensions and violence, and heightening tensions on the borders between states. In India alone, the trafficking of small arms is fuelling and escalating violent conflict in three distinct regions – the Northeast, Kashmir and Andhra Pradesh. In the wider region armed conflicts of varying degrees of intensity are ongoing in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burma, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Building networks
A major outcome from the Delhi workshop was the agreement to establish a loose network of NGOs under the provisional title of the Indian Coalition Against Small Arms (ICASA). Members of ICASA

are now planning four follow-on awareness raising meetings (in Hyderabad, Guwahati, Patna and Shimla) throughout the remainder of 2001.

A central task of ICASA will be to explore ways in which India and its neighbours can strengthen co-operation to increase the effectiveness of efforts to control arms and combat illicit arms trafficking from and through their territories. Ideas which emerged from the workshop included: measures to curb the cottage industry in small arms; the setting up of national and regional databases on import/export and holdings of small arms; measures to challenge cultural practices promoting pride in the display and use of small arms; stricter controls on the issue and renewal of gun licences; a ban on sales to non-state actors; the development of a regional centre for ex-combatant demobilisation and reintegration programmes; improved border controls; and the destruction of surplus stocks and illicit seizures of small arms. Saferworld is exploring with UK and international partners how to support the long-term development of this new network

Progress on small arms in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa

Significant progress has been made at the political level to tackle the proliferation of small arms in the Great Lakes region and the Horn of Africa. In November 2000, government officials agreed a comprehensive implementation plan for small arms action in the region. In February 2001, government experts at a Saferworld seminar set the wheels in motion for the development of a regional legal treaty on small arms control.

The framework for action in the region is the 'Nairobi Declaration' which was signed by foreign ministers from 10 countries in March 2000. Saferworld has developed a project to encourage its implementation, and will be working with NGO partners in the region – the Security Research and Information Centre

(SRIC, Nairobi), the Institute for Security Studies (ISS, Pretoria) – and three inter-governmental bodies – the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI), the Interpol sub regional bureau (Nairobi) and the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

Paul Eavis, Director of Saferworld, was invited as a resource person to the governmental meeting last November to help develop an implementation plan for the Nairobi Declaration. A key priority in this plan is the need to strengthen and harmonise national laws governing the transfer and possession of small arms.

Saferworld organised a seminar in February to address this issue. Govern-

ment experts exchanged information on current national controls, identified gaps, and discussed priorities for harmonisation. An expert working group has been convened to draft a regional legal treaty on small arms control and Saferworld has been appointed as a member.

Of course, laws are only effective when they are fully implemented. A major problem in the region is the lack of capacity of the police, customs and border guards to enforce controls. A combination of long borders, lack of resources and corruption has meant that illicit trafficking in arms has thrived. Saferworld's next regional seminar in Kampala in June will therefore focus on increasing the operational capacity of law enforcement agencies



Key challenges for UN small arms conference

THE THIRD AND FINAL governmental meeting to prepare for the UN Conference on small arms was held between 19 and 30 March 2001. The UN Conference on the 'illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects' will be held in New York in July at which it is hoped a Programme of Action, which will form the basis for future global action on small arms, will be agreed. Saferworld is working to ensure that the Conference achieves as successful an outcome as possible.

Slow progress in negotiations

Negotiations on the scope, structure and substance of the conference have been taking place for over a year. However, progress is slow and many key issues have yet to be resolved. Because the UN works on the basis of consensus, there is a danger that a few governments who are not committed to an effective Programme of Action will frustrate significant progress.

The March preparatory meeting discussed a draft Programme of Action proposed by the Chair, Mozambican Ambassador Carlos dos Santos. Unfortunately, this document is now much less ambitious than the version discussed at previous meetings. It is arguably more politically realistic, but NGOs and many governments fear that some compromises have been made too soon. That said, the document provides a solid foundation – the challenge for governments now is to build on it and develop it further.

After much wrangling, the contentious issue of NGO participation in the conference has been agreed. NGOs will have to go through a potentially restrictive accreditation process and will only be able to observe the general opening statements of governments. However, Saferworld and others will continue to press hard from the sidelines. The other issue which has dogged the negotiations so far has been the Presidency of the July conference, but on the last day of the final meeting, Ambassador Reyes of Colombia was appointed.

Facilitating expert participation

Debate at the March meeting was enhanced by the participation of a number of government experts from Southern and Eastern Africa. These are states directly affected by the scourge of small arms and the particular experience and knowledge which the officials brought to the discussions was valuable. Saferworld had noted that the debate at the previous preparatory meetings had not accurately reflected the experiences and needs of many affected states. To rectify this, Saferworld and our South African partner, the Institute for Security Studies, secured funding to aid the participation of a number of government officials from Africa. The 'Biting the Bullet' project (Saferworld with partners BASIC and International Alert) also sponsored the participation of NGO representatives from Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and South America.

Fringe activities

Saferworld was very active on the fringe of the March meeting seeking to ensure that the debate on the floor was as informed and progressive as possible. Saferworld helped organise private meetings between small groups of governments to discuss common approaches to key issues. The 'Biting the Bullet' project organised three public seminars for governments, NGOs and the media to stimulate thought and debate on key issues on the conference agenda. One was on the transport of arms, in which a fascinating insider's account of the illicit trafficking of arms was given by a pilot. Another focused on the impact of small arms on children which was held in partnership with the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs. At a third meeting, a new model of legal convention on arms exports was launched.

As part of the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), Saferworld helped co-ordinate NGO lobbying, and much activity took place on the conference floor before and after sessions as NGOs seized the opportunity to raise issues with delegates. NGOs were also given a formal platform to address

Priority issues

Saferworld and other NGOs have identified key priorities for agreement at the July conference:

- International criteria governing arms exports based on human rights and international law.
- International convention on arms brokering and transport agents.
- International convention on marking and tracing small arms.
- Destruction of surplus government stocks of weapons.
- Effective programmes to remove weapons from communities and provide security.
- Financial and technical assistance to build the capacity of governments to implement controls.

the meeting one morning and Liz Clegg, Saferworld's Arms and Security Programme Manager, presented a paper on responsibilities of states to control the authorised transfer of small arms.

Future activities

Preparation for the July conference is already underway. In the run up to the conference Saferworld will be working with key politicians, government officials and the media to press for a comprehensive final agreement. A number of activities are being planned around the conference, particularly focusing on the urgent humanitarian need for effective action. The conference in July is only one step along the path to comprehensively addressing the small arms problem. Saferworld will therefore be focusing on developing a follow-up process that will enable the Programme of Action to be effectively implemented and regularly reviewed and strengthened.

Media report

There was high media interest in the UN fringe meetings. The arms traffickers meeting was televised by CNN and covered by the BBC World Service Radio. Andy McLean was interviewed on The World Today Programme and quoted on BBC News on-line ◉

Letter from America

by Peter J Davies, Saferworld's US representative

Even as the Bush Administration reviews US defence policy, one thing is sure: his pro-business administration will increase its arms export sales throughout the world. Secretary of State Powell is already moving ahead with talks with the UK and Australia to allow licence-free exports to get weapons out of the door quicker. Recently President Bush has decided to offer Taiwan a range of advanced weapons, including eight diesel submarines and four guided-missile destroyers that China has long sought to block. Bush has declined, at least for now, to sell the Taiwanese Aegis-equipped destroyers, a far more sophisticated class of ships whose advanced radar systems could counter China's growing military power. However, although the provision of extremely high tech weapons such as the Aegis-equipped destroyers is controversial and may not be authorised for political reasons, nevertheless it is clear that Administration policy will be to maximize export sales of less high tech items.

Furthermore, while President Bush is proceeding to call for deep cuts in many domestic programmes to pay for his \$1.6 trillion tax cut, Lockheed Martin and other defence contractors need not fear

for their shareholders. Bush's fiscal year defence budget request to Congress of \$325 billion is \$14.2 billion or 4.6% higher than the financial year 2001. The trend is clear, the Department of Defence will continue to encourage robust transatlantic defence industry links which, as one proponent stated, "will provide classic free-trade efficiencies and reinforce NATO solidarity."

On Missile Defence, the strong support within the Republican administration and Congress, including many Democrats, has led to the Administration proceeding to fund and test this expensive and uncertain technology. Secretary of State Powell will no doubt be tasked to allay to European, Russian and Chinese fears that this threatens to undo the Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty.

The nominations of John Bolton as Undersecretary of State for arms control and John Negroponte as US Ambassador to the United Nations, along with Paul Wolfowitz as Undersecretary of Defence, to back up Secretary Rumsfeld – all who served under Reagan and former President Bush in the Cold War era – underlines the direction of this new Administration. Stay tuned

Funding

We are grateful to:

The Swedish International Development Agency for a grant of £53,000 towards our work enhancing the EU's capacity to prevent violent conflict in the Horn of Africa.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UK for £30,000, and the **Swedish International Development Agency** for

£26,500, to cover the travel cost of Southern and East African government experts to attend the UN small arms conference in New York.

The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation for £55,000 for a Community Safety and Firearms Project in Malawi and Surrounding Countries.

Staff

There has been a considerable expansion at Saferworld. We are particularly pleased to have recruited Project Coordinators from Poland, Hungary, Mozambique, Kenya and Ethiopia who will be helping to develop projects in Eastern Europe, Southern and East Africa.

Tackling the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons project

Martinho Chachua – Project

Coordinator & ISS/SW Liaison Officer, Southern Africa

Kate Cuddihy – Research Intern, Arms & Security Programme

Chrissie Hirst – Researcher, Central and Eastern Europe

Roy Isbister – Project Coordinator, Arms Export Controls

Judit Körömi – Project Coordinator, South East Europe and the Caucasus

Justus Okoko – Project Coordinator, East Africa

Angus Urquhart – Researcher, Southern & East Africa

Goška Wasilewska – Regional Project Coordinator, Central & Eastern Europe

EU and Conflict Prevention in the Horn of Africa

Kennedy Mkutu – Researcher (p/t)

Bizu Ketete – Regional Project

Networker. Bizu is based in Ethiopia and will play a key role in the co-ordination of the project within the region.

Communications

Vanessa Haines – Media/Government Relations Officer

Stuart Kefford – Media Intern

Administration

John Illankovan – Finance Officer (p/t)

Farewell and many thanks to:

Ben Lucy – Media Intern

This edition of Update was edited by Vanessa Haines



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