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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: TRANSPARENCY IN ARMAMENTS

United Nations Register of Conventional Arms

Report of the Secretary-General

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\* A/52/150 and Corr.1.

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/36 L of 9 December 1991 on transparency in armaments, the Secretary-General, on 1 January 1992, established the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms. In that resolution, the General Assembly called upon all Member States to provide annually data on imports and exports of conventional arms in the seven categories covered under the Register. It also invited Member States, pending the expansion of the Register, to provide to the Secretary-General, with their annual report on imports and exports of arms, available background information regarding their military holdings, procurement through national production and relevant policies, and requested the Secretary-General to record that material and to make it available for consultation by Member States at their request.

2. At its forty-seventh session, the General Assembly, by its resolution 47/52 L of 12 December 1992 on transparency in armaments, called upon all Member States to provide the requested data and information to the Secretary-General by 30 April annually, beginning in 1993, and encouraged Member States to inform the Secretary-General of their national arms import and export policies, legislation and administrative procedures, both as regards authorization of arms transfers and prevention of illicit transfers, in conformity with paragraph 18 of its resolution 46/36 L. Subsequent resolutions of the General Assembly reiterated this request.<sup>1</sup> In addition, the General Assembly, in its resolution 49/75 C took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development (A/49/316). By the same resolution and subsequent resolutions, the General Assembly decided to keep the scope of and participation in the Register under review, and to that end requested Member States to provide the Secretary-General with their views on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development and on transparency measures related to weapons of mass destruction (see A/50/276 and Add.1 and A/51/300, annex). In its resolution 51/45 H the Assembly reiterated its request to the Secretary-General, with the assistance of a group of governmental experts convened in 1997, to prepare a report on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development, taking into account the report of the Disarmament Commission at its 1996 session on the subject of international arms transfers, the work of the Conference on Disarmament, the views expressed by Member States and the 1994 report of the Secretary-General on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development (A/49/316), with a view to a decision at its fifty-second session. The 1997 report of the Secretary-General on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development is contained in document A/52/316.

3. The present report, which is also being prepared in accordance with resolution 51/45 H, is the fifth consolidated report issued by the Secretary-

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<sup>1</sup> Resolutions A/RES/48/75 E of 16 December 1993, A/RES/49/75 C of 15 December 1994 and A/RES/51/45 H of 10 December 1996.

General since the establishment of the Register.<sup>2</sup> It contains data and information provided by 85 Governments<sup>3</sup> on imports and exports of conventional arms covered under the Register - battle tanks, armoured combat vehicles, large-calibre artillery systems, attack helicopters, combat aircraft, warships, missiles and missile launchers - for the calendar year 1996. The replies as received are contained in section II below. Any additional replies received from Governments will be issued as addenda to the present report.

4. Section III of the present report contains an index of the background information submitted by Governments in accordance with paragraphs 10 and 18 of General Assembly resolution 46/36 L and paragraph 5 of resolution 47/52 L. The background information is available at the United Nations Centre for Disarmament Affairs for consultation.

5. In accordance with paragraph 3 (a) of resolution 51/45 H, the Secretary-General has also received further views on the continuing operation and further development of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and on transparency measures related to weapons of mass destruction from Israel, Mauritania (in its capacity as Chairman of the Arab Group for the month of September 1997 on behalf of the States members of the League of Arab States), the Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union and the associated countries (Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia) as well as of Norway and Iceland) and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Those replies are contained in the annex to the present report.

## II. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS<sup>4</sup>

6. Information received from Governments is presented in this section of the report as follows: (a) a composite table listing all the replies received by the Secretary-General, and (b) individual replies of Governments. Where appropriate, the relevant parts of notes verbales are also reproduced.

7. The composite table is provided for ease of reference. As regards the information contained in the table, it should be noted that a "yes" denotes a submission of data regarding imports and/or exports in relation to the seven categories of arms covered by the Register, during the reporting period. For the purpose of uniform tabulation, responses by Governments that contained either "nil", "none", "0", a dash (-), or which otherwise indicated that no

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<sup>2</sup> The first to fourth reports were issued under the symbols A/48/344 and Corr.1-3 and Add.1-3, A/49/352 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1-4, A/50/547 and Add.1-4 and Corr.1 and A/51/300 and Add.1-5 respectively.

<sup>3</sup> Including a "nil" report submitted by Cook Islands.

<sup>4</sup> The documents have been reproduced as received. The designations employed do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory or area, or of its authorities.

exports and/or imports in the categories covered by the Register had taken place are reflected in the table as "nil" reports. A blank space under data on imports and/or exports in the composite table indicates that no information was provided. In some cases, however, an explanation can be found in the note verbale of the country in question, as indicated above. Only those parts of the standardized forms which contain specific data and notes verbales of Governments providing relevant information are reproduced in part B of this section. Replies in standardized forms or in notes verbales containing "nil" or blank reports are listed in the composite table only.

A. Composite table of replies of Governments

State	Data on exports	Data on imports	Explanation submitted in note verbale	Background information
Andorra	nil	nil		no
Argentina	nil	yes		yes
Armenia	nil	nil		yes
Australia	yes	yes		yes
Austria	yes	nil		yes
Azerbaijan	nil	nil		yes
Belarus	yes	nil		no
Belgium	yes	nil		yes
Brazil	nil	yes		yes
Brunei Darussalam		yes		no
Bulgaria	nil	yes		yes
Canada	yes	yes		yes
Chile	nil	yes		no
China	yes	yes	yes	yes
Cuba	nil	nil		no
Cyprus	nil	yes		no
Czech Republic	yes	nil		yes
Denmark	nil	yes		yes
Dominican Republic				yes

State	Data on exports	Data on imports	Explanation submitted in note verbale	Background information
Ecuador	nil	nil		no
Estonia	nil	nil		no
Ethiopia	nil			no
Finland	yes	yes		no
France	yes	yes		yes
Georgia	nil	nil		no
Germany	yes	nil		yes
Greece	yes	yes		yes
Grenada	nil	nil		no
Guatemala	nil	nil		no
Guyana	nil	nil		no
Honduras	nil	nil		no
Hungary	nil	yes		no
Iceland	nil	nil		no
India	nil	yes		no
Indonesia		yes		no
Ireland	nil	nil		yes
Israel	yes	yes		yes
Italy	yes	yes		yes
Japan	nil	yes		yes

State	Data on exports	Data on imports	Explanation submitted in note verbale	Background information
Kazakhstan	yes	nil		no
Latvia	nil	nil		no
Liechtenstein	nil	nil		no
Lithuania	nil	nil		no
Luxembourg	nil	nil		yes
Madagascar	nil	nil		no
Malaysia	nil	yes		no
Maldives	nil	nil		no
Malta	nil	nil		no
Marshall Islands	nil	nil		no
Mauritius	nil	nil		no
Mexico	nil	yes		yes
Monaco	nil	nil		no
Mongolia	nil	nil		no
Namibia	nil	nil		no
Netherlands	yes	nil		yes
New Zealand	nil	nil		yes
Norway	nil	yes		no
Pakistan		yes		no
Paraguay	nil	nil		no

State	Data on exports	Data on imports	Explanation submitted in note verbale	Background information
Peru	nil	yes		no
Poland	nil	yes		yes
Portugal	nil	yes		yes
Republic of Korea	nil	yes		no
Romania	yes	yes		no
Russian Federation	yes	nil		no
Samoa	nil	nil		no
Seychelles	nil	nil		no
Singapore	yes	yes		no
Slovakia	yes	yes		yes
Slovenia	nil	yes		no
South Africa	yes	nil		no
Spain	nil	yes		yes
Sweden	yes	yes		yes
Switzerland	yes	yes		yes
Thailand		yes		no
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	nil	nil		yes
Trinidad and Tobago	nil	nil		no
Turkey	nil	nil		yes
Turkmenistan	yes			no

State	Data on exports	Data on imports	Explanation submitted in note verbale	Background information
Ukraine	yes			no
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	yes	yes		yes
United Republic of Tanzania	nil	nil		no
United States of America	yes	yes		yes
Viet Nam	nil	nil		no



III. INDEX OF BACKGROUND INFORMATION PROVIDED BY GOVERNMENTS  
 FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 1996

<u>State</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Language</u>
Argentina	Información sobre existencia de material bélico (diciembre 1996).	Spanish
Armenia	Conventional arms in the national armed forces.	English
Australia	Register of Conventional Arms - additional background material.	English
Austria	Background information related to Austrian exports.  National holdings.  Background information related to Austrian holdings.  Procurement through national production.  Background information related to national procurement.	English
Azerbaijan	Military holdings as of July 1997.	Russian
Belgium	Dotations globales de chars de bataille, de véhicules blindés de combat, de pièces d'artillerie, d'avions de combat, d'hélicoptères d'attaque, de navires de guerre et de missiles ou systèmes de missile (valables le 31 decembre 1996).	French
Brazil	Military holdings.  Procurement through national production.  Senado Federal. Projeto de lei da câmara No. 108 de 1995 [Law No. 9112 of 10 October 1995 regulating the export of sensitive goods and related services, including goods of military application (unofficial translation)].	English  Portuguese
Bulgaria	Available background information on military holdings and procurement through national production.  Available background information on military holdings for export.	English
Canada	Equipment holdings - Canadian Armed Forces - as of 31 December 1996.  Procurement through national production.	English
China	Arms transfers policy.	Chinese
Cook Islands	Military holdings ("nil" report).	English
Czech Republic	Military holdings. Valid as of 1 January 1997.  Procurement from national production ("nil" report).	English

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<u>State</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Language</u>
Denmark	Procurement in 1996 through national production ("nil" report).	English
	Military holdings ultimo 1996.	
Dominican Republic	Information regarding Protocol II of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.	Spanish
France	Informations générales disponibles sur les dotations militaires, les achats liés à la production nationale et la politique en matière de dotation.	French
Germany	Military holdings.	English
	Procurement from national production in 1996.	
	Policy and practice on exports of conventional weapons and related technology.	
Greece	Military holdings and procurement from national production.	English
Ireland	National holdings.	English
Israel	Background information.	English
Italy	Reports of military holdings and procurement from national production of conventional arms (according to General Assembly resolution 46/36 L).	English
	Italian policies on armament material transfer.	
Japan	Military holdings.	English
	Procurement through national production.	
	Japan's policies on the control of arms exports and imports.	
Luxembourg	Acquisitions de matériel militaire par la production nationale ("nil" report).	French
	Dispositions nationales concernant l'exportation de matériel militaire.	
	Stocks de matériel militaire ("nil" report).	
Mexico	Información general sobre existencias de material bélico.	Spanish
	Información general sobre adquisición de material de producción nacional ("nil" report).	
Netherlands	Military holdings.	English
	Procurement through national production.	

<u>State</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Language</u>
New Zealand	Annual report to Parliament of the New Zealand Defence Force for the year ended 30 June 1996.	English
	Annual report to the Parliament of the New Zealand Ministry of Defence for the year ended 30 June 1996.	
	Holdings for the calendar year of 1996.	
	Procurement through national production ("nil" report).	
	Definition of "transfers".	
Poland	Military holdings as of 1 January 1997.	English
	Procurement through national production.	
Portugal	Military holdings.	English
	Procurement through national production ("nil" report).	
	Portuguese arms exports: relevant policies.	
Slovakia	Military holdings.	English
	Procurement from national production.	
Spain	Existencias de armas convencionales al 31 de diciembre de 1996.	Spanish
	Adquisición de material de producción nacional en el año 1996 ("nil" report).	
	Políticas pertinentes y procedimientos españoles sobre transacciones de material de defensa.	
Sweden	Military holdings as of 31 December 1996.	English
	Procurement from national production in 1996.	
	Annual exchange of military information pursuant to the Vienna Document 1994; valid as of 1 January 1997.	
	Swedish Arms Exports in 1996: a government report.	
Switzerland	Military holdings as of 1 January 1997.	English
	Procurement from national production.	
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Comments with regard to military holdings and national production.	English

<u>State</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Language</u>
Turkey	The quantities of arms vehicles and equipment produced nationally.	English
	The quantity of arms vehicles and equipment.	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Military holdings.	English
	Procurement from national production.	
	United Kingdom Defence. Equipment procurement, import and export policies.	
United States of America	Available background information on military holdings and procurement through national production.	English
	Previous background information on legislation and national policies remains relevant.	

ANNEX

Views received from Governments

ISRAEL

[Original: English]

[7 May 1997]

1. The United Nations Register of Conventional Arms is becoming an important source of authoritative information covering a large volume of international trade in major conventional arms. It is the only intergovernmental United Nations mechanism that addresses the issue of conventional armaments on a global basis.
2. In Israel's view, the Register is part and product of a larger step-by-step building-block arms control process and approach which intends to contribute to a more comprehensive system of security among States, a system characterized by mutual trust, confidence and partnership.
3. However, the Register cannot achieve its objectives as long as participation in reporting to the Register remains unsatisfactory, with only about 70 States now consistently providing reports and certain regions almost entirely absent.
4. Of all countries in the Middle East region, for example, only Israel has submitted its replies to the Register on a continuous annual basis since 1993, while nine States have never replied.
5. It is therefore Israel's view that the Register still has to withstand the test of time, to attract much larger participation and to consolidate the existing categories before further development of the Register or major changes can be considered.
6. Israel, especially, believes that a favourable attitude on the part of many more States in the Middle East towards the Register is highly desirable and regrets that most Governments in the Middle East region have elected so far not to participate in the Register.

MAURITANIA\*

[Original: Arabic/English]

[2 September 1997]

1. The States members of the League of Arab States fully support the cause of transparency in armaments as a means for enhancing international peace and security and believe that, in order to be successful, any transparency mechanism must be guided by certain basic principles: it must be balanced, comprehensive and non-discriminatory, and it must enhance the national, regional and international security of all States in conformity with international law.

2. The United Nations Register of Conventional Arms represents a long overdue first attempt by the international community at addressing the transparency issue on a global scale. Despite the fact that the Register's potential value as a global confidence-building measure and early warning mechanism cannot be questioned, it has encountered a number of problems. Most noticeably, approximately half of the States Members of the United Nations have consistently refrained from submitting data to the Register. Thus, the States members of the Arab League are of the view that it is necessary to address effectively the concerns of those States so as to ensure universal participation in the Register.

3. In this context, the States members of the Arab League are of the view that the scope of the Register must be expanded, particularly as the experience of the past years has shown that the Register, which is limited to seven categories of conventional arms, will not attract universal participation. Numerous States, including the members of the League, do not consider that the Register, given its present and limited scope, adequately meets their security needs. The future success of the Register is therefore contingent upon the willingness of the members of the international community to engage in more transparency and to build more confidence. In our view, and as envisaged in the Register's founding resolution (General Assembly resolution 46/36 L), an expanded Register including data on advanced conventional weapons, on weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, and on high technology with military applications would represent a more balanced, more comprehensive and less discriminatory instrument attracting a larger number of regular participants.

4. The Middle East region represents a case in point, where the qualitative imbalance in terms of armaments is so striking and where transparency and confidence can only come about if approached in a balanced and comprehensive way. Applying transparency in the Middle East region to seven categories of conventional weapons, while ignoring more advanced, more sophisticated or more lethal armaments, such as weapons of mass destruction, is an approach that is neither balanced nor comprehensive. It will not lead to the desired results, particularly as the Register does not take into consideration the existing

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\* In its capacity as Chairman of the Arab Group for the month of September 1997, Mauritania submitted the consolidated reply of the States members of the League of Arab States.

situation in the Middle East, where Israel continues its occupation of the Arab territories and its possession of the most lethal weapons of mass destruction and continues to be the only State in the region that is not yet party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and persists in defying repeated calls by the international community to become party to the Treaty and to place all its unsafeguarded nuclear facilities under full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards.

NETHERLANDS\*

[Original: English]

[29 April 1997]

1. All States have the inherent right to self-defence, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, and consequently the right to acquire arms for their security, including from outside sources. However, the increased international attention to, and importance of, transparency of transfers and possession of conventional arms are justified by the fact that these conventional arms cause serious human suffering in international and internal conflicts and are not subject to legal regimes in many parts of the world.
2. The European Union remains convinced that transparency in armaments is an important factor in creating a climate of confidence between States, particularly at the regional level.
3. In the opinion of the European Union the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms is an important mechanism because it provides data on international arms transfers of those categories of conventional arms that are particularly suited to offensive purposes and surprise attacks and are therefore potentially destabilizing when accumulated excessively. In each of the four years of the existence of the Register, about 90 States, including all members of the European Union, submitted national declarations. Moreover, 134 States have reported at least once to the Register since its inception in 1992. Those declarations covered the bulk of the arms trade between States.
4. In order to enhance the effectiveness of the Register as a global confidence-building measure, every effort should be made to secure the widest possible participation. The European Union encourages all United Nations Member States to submit their national data to the Register in the coming years. In this respect, the European Union would like to emphasize that even "nil reports" are an important contribution to the success of the Register. Furthermore, the promotion of an increased and wider knowledge of the Register should be seen as an important means to strengthen public support for it.

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\* On behalf of the European Union and of the associated countries Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, as well as of Norway and Iceland.

5. The European Union believes that the inclusion of data on military holdings and procurement through national production will render the Register more complete and useful. Therefore, the European Union invites United Nations Member States to submit such data. To maximize the accessibility of this information, the European Union suggests that such information be provided in the standardized form applicable to transfers.

6. In order to ensure that the Register responds to evolving security needs, it is important that its operation be regularly reviewed. The European Union therefore welcomes the current review of the continuing operation of the Register and its further development by the Secretary-General with the assistance of a group of governmental experts, in accordance with paragraph 3 (b) of resolution 51/45 H. The European Union expresses the hope that all States will contribute to the success of this review, which should result in a report to be presented to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session.

7. In conformity with the request embodied in General Assembly resolutions over the years concerning transparency in armaments, the Conference on Disarmament has devoted two sessions to discussing possible ways and means of enhancing transparency in armaments in its Ad Hoc Committee on transparency in armaments. Although the Conference on Disarmament has not yet reached agreement on specific measures of recommendations for enhancing transparency in armaments, a better understanding of these issues appears to have emerged. It is for this reason that the European Union attaches considerable importance to the resumption of the work in the Ad Hoc Committee.

8. The European Union would like to emphasize that transparency measures related to weapons of mass destruction are, for various reasons, of a different nature than transparency measures related to conventional weapons. To enhance confidence and stability, transparency measures with regard to weapons of mass destruction should be an element in the arms control and disarmament process.

9. The European Union welcomes the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention on 29 April 1997 and works actively towards its universal adherence. The objective of the European Union is full implementation of the bans on chemical weapons as well as on biological and toxin weapons. Transparency measures can be a step towards that goal. In this respect, reference can be made to the obligations contained in the Convention to declare stocks of chemical weapons and chemical weapon production facilities immediately after entry into force. In the framework of the Biological Weapons Convention the European Union supports the work under way in the ad hoc group on strengthening the convention. The European Union believes the addition of a legally binding verification protocol will increase transparency and strengthen confidence in compliance with the convention.

10. The European Union member States reaffirm, in conformity with article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, their commitment to pursue in good faith negotiations on effective measures relating to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control. The agreement on a universal and effective verifiable Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in the fall of 1996 was a

concrete step in the implementation of the Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament adopted on 11 May by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

[Original: English]

[16 May 1997]

The Republic of Macedonia is continually supporting all activities of the international community, and especially those of the United Nations for a greater transparency in production, stockpiling and trading of conventional arms. The United Nations Register of Conventional Arms contributes greatly to that end.

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