

COALITION

for Gun Control / pour le contrôle des armes

www.guncontrol.ca

Border Controls in Canada: Impact on Illicit Trafficking and Public Safety

Brief to the Sub-Committee on International Trade, Trade Disputes
and Investment of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and
International Trade

October 29, 2001

Over the past few weeks, witnesses appearing before the Sub-Committee on International Trade, Trade Disputes and Investment of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade discussed extensively the commercial implications of delays at the Canada-US border. While it has been proposed that Canada consider a “North American Security Perimeter” that would remove the barrier between Canada and the US and would encourage the movement of goods and people, we urge you to consider the serious implications which such a move would have on public safety.

The fact remains that Canadians must also be concerned about the threats to our public safety which originate in the US. To date, the preoccupation seems to be on trade issues and on reassuring the US that we meet their standards for immigration and security. However, the reality is that there are significant problems with illicit trafficking of drugs and firearms *from* the US into Canada. Both the Canadian Police Association and the Canadian Association of Police Boards addressed this issue of public safety at their latest annual meetings and have called for a comprehensive review on the implications of an open border on public safety in Canada. (See Appendix 1)

International studies show that illegal gun trade, whether to organized crime, terrorists or insurgents, is fuelled by inadequate regulation of firearms in the US. There are numerous indications of international concern regarding this problem. *The United Nations Protocol Against the Illicit Manufacturing of, and Trafficking in, Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition* as part of the *Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime* signed in December 2000, is aimed at strengthening controls on import, export and in transit movements of firearms. However, it is not enough on its own. It must be supported with strong border controls and enforcement. In the draft program of action at the more recent United Nations 2001 Conference on Illicit Trade of Small Arms in all its Aspects, there was explicit language regarding the importance of nations implementing effective control over civilian use and possession of firearms in order to stem the illegal trade. However, pressure from the US at the Conference resulted in the omission of this section from the final document.

There is no question that since September 11, international priorities have changed dramatically. But the problem of the traffic of illegal firearms will not go away and, in fact, may worsen if we do not take a balanced and measured approach to controlling our border with the US.

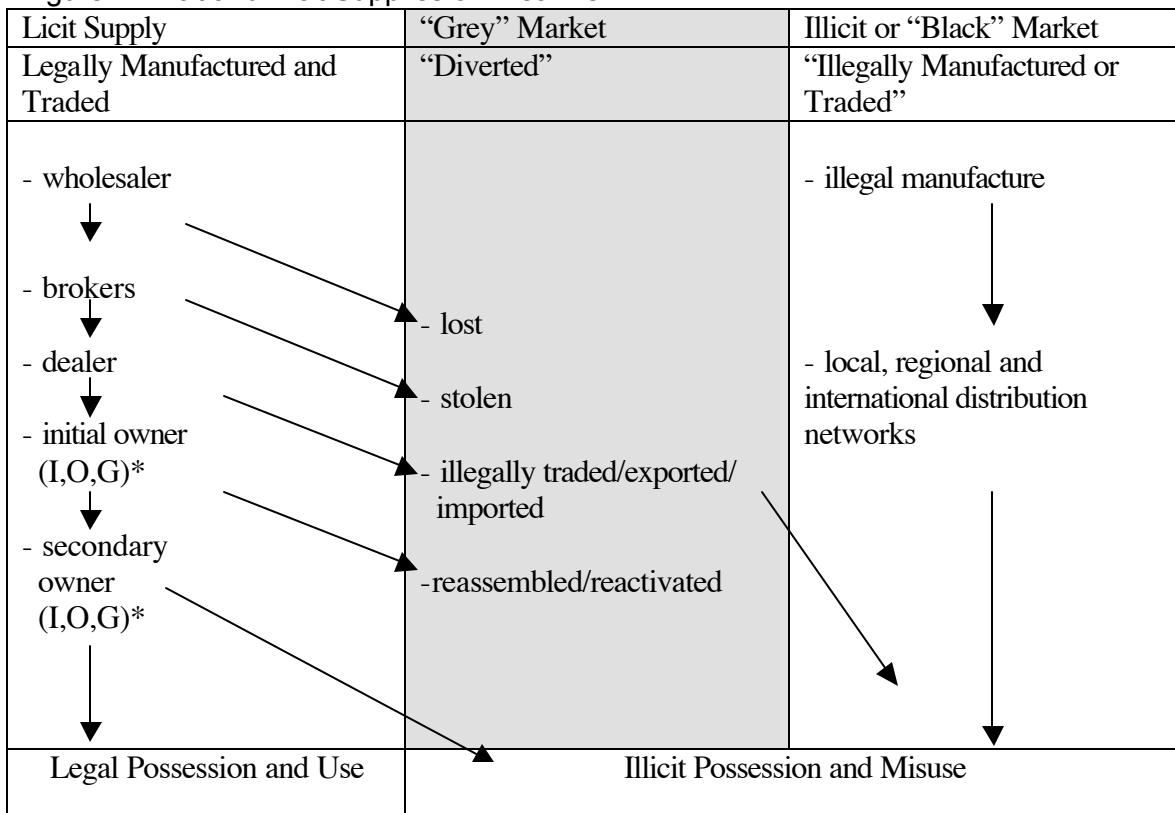
The Problem

Gun smuggling is a critical issue in Canada and we see evidence of the importance of strong border control. The erosion of trade barriers not only facilitates the legal movement of products and people but also the illegal movement of drugs, firearms and people. Relaxed border controls come with uneven domestic regulations, export laws, policing expertise and resources. Under such conditions, global criminal networks, money-laundering operations and brokers operating beyond national laws, flourish. The recent rash of shootings in the Toronto area should be seen as a reminder that, while we have made progress at strengthening our domestic gun control legislation, more efforts need to be focused on the problem of illicit trafficking.

Thus the principal problem with illicit firearms occurs when legally possessed firearms are diverted to illegal markets or are used illegally. In addition, firearms tend to flow from unregulated markets to regulated markets on an international as well as a national basis. Diversion occurs through a variety of mechanisms but generally the evidence suggests that illegal firearms fall into three broad categories:

- legally held firearms that are misused by their lawful owner;
- legal firearms that are diverted - the 'grey' market - sold by legal owners to unauthorized individuals, illegally sold, stolen or diverted through other means; and,
- illegally manufactured and distributed firearms.

Figure 1: Licit and Illicit Supplies of Firearms¹



*I- individuals O- organisations G - governments

Because of the interactions between formal (licit) and informal (illicit) markets, controls on legal markets can undoubtedly reduce misuse. For example, firearm theft is a major contributor to illicit trafficking. Approximately 3,000 guns are reported missing, lost or stolen each year in Canada, by definition falling into the wrong hands.

Firearms Recovered in Criminal Investigations

The sources of illicit firearms vary from region to region but one thing is clear: most illegal firearms begin as legal firearms.² In Canada, most of the firearms recovered in crime are rifles and shotguns and those are the weapons most often used to kill. However, there are geographical variations. In large cities, smuggled handguns make up a larger proportion of firearms recovered

¹ Wendy Cukier, Firearms/Small arms; Finding Common Ground, Canadian Foreign Policy, 6 (1)1998a.

² W. Cukier and S Shropshire. 2000a. "Firearm Regulation." In Lora Lumpe, ed. *Running Guns: The Global Black Market in Small Arms*. London: Zed Books. W. Cukier, T Sarkar and T Quigley. 2000b. "Firearms Regulation and International Jurisprudence." *Canadian Criminal Law Review*. December.

from crime scenes. These weapons are often illegally imported and traded. For instance, the Metropolitan Toronto Police Service's report on gun related crime found that in 1997, of the 2304 firearms seized by police, rifles and shotguns figured prominently at 41.7% while 52.8% were handguns, 1% machine guns, 0.5% machine pistols and 3.9% were unknown.³. Similarly, in a 1995 study, rifles and shotguns figured prominently in Toronto area criminal investigations, representing 28% of the firearms recovered, compared to (21%) for handguns and other restricted weapons, 1% for sawed off and prohibited firearms, and (40%) for airguns and replicas.⁴ (see Appendix 2 for breakdown by cities)

Despite recent high-profile shootings, overall firearm crime trends are going down. Recent reports indicate that both the rates and numbers of firearm robberies have consistently declined, with the 2000 rate of 14.1 per 100,000 representing a 38% decrease since 1996. The report *Homicide in Canada* also revealed a downward trend of firearms homicides over the past decade.⁵ (see Appendix 3) Also, the fact that Toronto has one of the lowest homicide rates in the country (1.28 per 100,000) indicates that despite common perception, gun crime is not just an urban problem. Nevertheless, recent incidents in Toronto signal that we cannot be complacent. Between January and July 2001, there were 27 fatal shooting in Toronto while for all of 2000, 26 were reported.

Border Controls in a Global Context

Even though the Canadian government has enacted world-class firearms legislation, illegal gun smuggling remains a problem -- particularly because of our shared border with the US. It is difficult to estimate the extent of illicit trafficking in the country, but studies examining guns recovered from crime scenes found that almost half of these guns appear to have been illegally imported from the US through straw purchases and gun shows.⁶ In some contexts, such as drug related crime and gang violence, estimates are even higher. The United States of America has 240 million people with 200 million guns and very few effective controls. Every year, 500, 000 of these guns are stolen -- by definition entering the illegal market. Other forms of diversion have been documented, including "dirty dealers", gun shows, etc. The recent behaviour of the US at the UN Conference on Illicit Trade of Small Arms in All Its Aspects has made it abundantly clear that while the US likes to pontificate about the problems of illegal drugs, it takes no responsibility for its role as the principal supplier of illegal guns worldwide.

In Canada, handguns have been licensed and registered since the 1930's. As a result, Canada has roughly 1 million handguns while the US has more than 76 million. While the murder rate without guns in the US is roughly equivalent (1.8 times) to that of Canada, the murder rate with handguns is 15 times that of the Canadian rate. (see Appendix 4) While there are other factors affecting murder, suicide and unintentional injury rates, a comparison of data between Canada and the US suggests that access to handguns may play a significant role.

Experience shows that where there are open borders, guns will flow from unregulated areas to regulated areas. The recent experience of Great Britain should be instructive. Although they have the toughest gun laws in Europe, the combination of the new EU border policies and the Chunnel

³ Metropolitan Toronto Police. 1998. Report on Gun Related Crime - Emergency & Protective Services Committee Request. April 2.

⁴ Canada. Department of Justice. 1995. *Firearms Recovered in Crime - Report of the Firearms Smuggling Work Group*. Ottawa: Department of Justice.

⁵ Canada. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. "Homicide in Canada-1999." Juristat. Statistics Canada. 20(9) 2000.

⁶ Canada. Department of Justice. July 1997. *Firearms Recovered By Police: A Multi-Site Study*. Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. Daniel Antonowicz Consulting. Ottawa: Department of Justice. Canada. Department of Justice. 1995. *Firearms Recovered in Crime - Report of the Firearms Smuggling Work Group*. Ottawa: Department of Justice.

has created new networks of illegal trafficking. Europe has gone for the common perimeter approach and has seen a dramatic increase in the rate of illicit trafficking. Instead of crossing several borders to get to their destination, those trafficking illegal commodities only have to get through one.

Without effective internal controls, firearms tend to be diverted from licit to illicit markets and the effects of this are seen both inside and outside the country. In the US, where there is a huge supply of guns and little effective control, a recent study found that in states where there are strict firearm regulations, the majority of guns recovered in crime originate from out of state.

Researchers analysed data on guns recovered from crimes committed in 25 U.S. cities. In cities with no licensing or registration requirements, 84% of crime guns originated locally, compared to 72 percent in cities in states with either licensing or registration but not both; and 33% where the state required both licensing and registration for handgun purchases.⁷ This study provides strong evidence that licensing and registration make it more difficult for criminals to obtain firearms but that open borders allow firearms to move from unregulated areas to regulated areas. These findings are also consistent with the results of other studies of international trafficking. National regulations can control the flow of domestic firearms to illegal markets, but countries with strict controls are vulnerable to firearms arriving from other countries with less strict controls.

The same mechanisms which supply domestic illegal markets also supply international illegal markets and are fuelled by inadequate border controls. The Canadian experience with this problem has been documented worldwide. It is estimated, for example, that 80% of the firearms in Mexico originate in the United States. The border states of California, Texas, Arizona and New Mexico, with over 12,000 licensed firearms dealers, are believed to be major sources for these firearms.⁸ Even in Japan, where officials recover 1000 firearms each year, 30 per cent are said to originate in the United States.⁹ In addition, areas which have limited border controls -- for example the Akwasasne reserve in Quebec -- have proved to be "hot spots" for trafficking illegal commodities like guns and cigarettes. It is for these reasons, that we believe that strong Canadian border controls are critical. Not only do they aid in *enforcing* laws against illicit trafficking, they also act as a powerful *deterrent* to illegal gun trafficking.

Gun Control Legislation

Our gun control law will help reduce the diversion of legal guns to the illegal market. Licensing firearm owners will reduce the risk that individuals who are likely to misuse firearms will gain access to them. Registration ensures gun owners will be held accountable for their guns, thereby encouraging compliance with safe storage requirements and, ultimately, reducing gun deaths. The *Firearms Act* also contains, among others, sections on the import, export and marking of firearms. We have already seen evidence that the law is working to reduce illicit trafficking. In May 2000, the firearm registry helped uncover what is alleged to be a large and sophisticated gun smuggling ring. Likely destined for the black market, nearly 23,000 firearms and their components were seized. We also see evidence of the critical need for strong border control as a means to help ensure that our laws are known and applied by Americans crossing the border (see Appendix 5).

⁷ Webster, Daniel W., Jon S. Vernick and Lisa M. Hepburn. 2001. "Relationship Between Licensing Registration and Other Gun Sales Laws and the Source State of Crime Guns." *Injury Prevention*, Vol. 7.

⁸ Weiner, Tim and Ginger Thompson. 2001. "U.S. Guns Smuggled Into Mexico Aid Drug War." *New York Times*. 19 May.

⁹ United Nations (UN). 1999. *United Nations International Study on Firearm Regulation Update*.
<http://www.ifs.univie.ac.at/uncjin/mosaic/firearms/index.htm>

Recommendation

Concerns about this issue are grounded in facts and experience and should not be seen as a reaction or position on the broader issues of globalization and free trade. While Canada and the United States share many common objectives, we have major differences in domestic regulations, export laws, policing expertise and resources. The erosion of trade barriers not only facilitates the legal movement of products and people, but also the illegal movement of drugs, firearms and criminals worldwide. The UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime was an international response to the increasing problems associated with the globalization of crime and is testament to the growing concern about the problem. The importance of a strong Canadian economy, augmented by the easy movement of legitimate goods and human capital between our country and the US, is unquestionable. However, this ease of movement should not come at any cost. Canadians' interests are best served when we live in a country that is both prosperous *and* safe from the flood of illegal firearms that plague our neighbours to the South. We trust that the Committee will be mindful of this reality and will seriously consider the public safety aspects of the proposed North American Security Perimeter.

APPENDIX 1

**RESOLUTION APPROVED AT THE 2001
CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF POLICE BOARDS' ANNUAL MEETING
FRIDAY, AUGUST 17, 2001 – SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN**

**RESOLUTION 01-9:
IMPLICATIONS OF AN “OPEN BORDER” CONCEPT**

WHEREAS recent media reports indicate the Government of Canada is advancing the concept of an “open border” between Canada and the United States; and

WHEREAS under this proposal the border controls now in place would be replaced by a perimeter control model, similar to the European Union, which would allow the free movement of people and goods between Canada and the U.S.; and

WHEREAS government officials have indicated this proposal is under active consideration by federal working groups and has been the subject of discussions with U.S. officials; and

WHEREAS there is no indication that any of the implications of an open border on law enforcement and the possible proliferation of crime in areas such as gun trafficking, drug trafficking and transport of illegal immigrants has been considered;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Association of Police Boards strongly urge the Government of Canada to institute a comprehensive review in concert with provincial authorities, and a wide public consultation with the law enforcement community on the implications of an open border as part of any discussion on altering the current status of border controls between Canada and the United States.

Canadian Police Association 2001 Resolutions
2001 JUSTICE REFORM RESOLUTION
SEPTEMBER 6, 2001

OPEN BORDERS

WHEREAS

AND

WHEREAS

- Recent media reports indicate the Government of Canada is advancing the concept of an “open border” between Canada and the United States of America;
- Under this proposal the border controls now in place would be replaced by a perimeter control model, similar to the European Union, which would allow the free movement of people and goods between Canada and the U.S.A.,
- Government officials have indicated this proposal is under active consideration by federal working groups and has been the subject of discussions with U.S. officials,
- The implications of an open border present serious concerns for law enforcement including the possible proliferation of crime in areas such as gun trafficking, drug trafficking and transport of illegal immigrants, as well as entry into Canada of violent criminals seeking safe haven or refuge.

BE IT

RESOLVED

THAT

- The Canadian Police Association (CPA) actively opposes the concept of an open border, and calls for the strengthening of Canada’s borders at all points of entry; and,
- The CPA strongly urges the Government of Canada to institute a comprehensive review in concert with provincial authorities, and a wide public consultation with the law enforcement community on the implications of an open border as part of any discussion on altering the current status of border controls between Canada and the United States of America.

APPENDIX 2

TABLE 1

	Rifles & Shotguns		Handgun & Rest. Weapon		Sawed off & Prohibited		Airguns & Replicas		Other		Total
	Number	% of site	Number	% of site	Number	% of site	Number	% of site	Number	% of site	Number
St. John	49	60%	15	19%	5	6%	12	15%	0	0%	81
Hull	48	62%	12	15%	5	6%	13	17%	0	0%	78
Windsor	99	44%	51	23%	9	4%	66	29%	0	0%	225
Thunder Bay	133	58%	56	24%	6	3%	28	12%	7	3%	230
Regina	114	53%	30	14%	11	5%	59	27%	3	1%	217
TOTAL	443	53%	164	20%	36	4%	178	21%	10	1%	831

Source: *Firearms Recovered by Police: A Multi-Site Study*. Department of Justice and Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. 1997

TABLE 2

	Rifles & Shotguns		Handgun & Rest. Weapon		Sawed off & Prohibited		Airguns & Replicas		Other		Total
	Number	% of site	Number	% of site	Number	% of site	Number	% of site	Number	% of site	Number
Winnipeg	236	53%	59	13%	43	9.8%	91	22.6 %	13	2.9%	428

Source: *Firearms Recovered by the Winnipeg Police Service*. 1997

TABLE 3

	Rifles & Shotguns		Handgun & Rest. Weapon		Sawed off & Prohibited		Airguns & Replicas		Other		Total
	Number	% of site	Number	% of site	Number	% of site	Number	% of site	Number	% of site	Number
RCMP	1090	71%	164	11%	25	2%	110	7%	153	10%	1542
Montreal	75	19%	234	61%	55	14%	8	2%	9	2%	386
Vancouver	102	25%	123	30%	15	4%	117	29%	50	12%	407
Edmonton	221	47%	65	14%	12	3%	142	30%	34	7%	474
Toronto	281	28%	207	21%	5	1%	392	40%	103	10%	988
Niagara	96	41%	46	19%	5	2%	78	33%	11	5%	236
Ottawa	50	32%	29	18%	8	5%	63	40%	8	5%	158
Waterloo	118	55%	40	19%	8	4%	45	21%	4	2%	215
Halifax	58	71%	9	11%	2	2%	12	15%	1	1%	82
Dartmouth	20	53%	6	16%	2	5%	8	21%	2	5%	38
TOTAL	2111	47%	923	21%	137	3%	975	22%	350	8%	4496

Source: *Firearms Recovered in Crime - Report of the Firearms Smuggling Work Group*. 1995

APPENDIX 3

TABLE 1

	1996		1997		1998		1999		2000			
	Number	Rate per 100,000	% change in rate 1999-2000	% change in rate 1996-2000								
Firearms Robbery	6,737	22.7	5,486	18.3	5,324	17.6	5,122	16.8	4,322	14.1	-16.3	-38.1

Source: Statistics Canada. *Crime Statistics in Canada*, 2000. Juristat. Vol. 21 No. 8

TABLE 2

	Rate per 100,000 of Firearms Homicide	Total Homicides involving Firearms	Total Rate of Homicide	Total Homicides	Firearms % of All Homicides
1990	0.71	196	2.38	660	29.7
1991	0.97	271	2.70	756	35.8
1992	0.87	247	2.58	732	33.7
1993	0.68	195	2.18	627	31.0
1994	0.68	196	2.05	596	32.9
1995	0.60	176	2.00	588	29.9
1996	0.71	212	2.14	635	33.3
1997	0.64	193	1.95	586	32.9
1998	0.50	151	1.84	558	27.2
1999	0.54	165	1.76	536	30.8

Source: "Homicide in Canada-1999." Juristat. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. Statistics Canada. 20 (9) 2000.

APPENDIX 4
CANADA-US COMPARISON

	Year	Canada	US	US/ CAN
Population	1998	30.2 m	270 m	8.9x
Number of All Firearms	1998	7.4 m	222 m	30x
Number of Handguns	1998	1.2 m (restricted firearms)	76 m	63.3x
Guns per capita	1997	.25	.82	3.3x

Firearms Death (Rate per 100,000)*		Canada	US	US/ Can
Accidental deaths with Firearms	1998	0.2	0.3	1.5x
Suicides with Firearms	1998	3.4	6.4	1.9x
Total Firearms Deaths	1998	4.3	11.4	2.7x

Crime Statistics (Rate per 100,000)		Canada	US	US/ Can
Murders with Firearms	1998	0.5	4.4	7.9x
Murders with Handguns	1998	0.23	3.3	14.5x
Murders without Guns	1998	1.3	2.3	1.8x
Robberies with Guns	1998	18	63	3.5x
Robberies without Guns	1998	78	102	1.3x

		Canada	US	Can/US
Overall Homicide rate per 100,000	1998	1.83	6.62	3.6x
% of homicides with firearms	1998	27.3%	66%	2.4x
% of firearm homicides with handguns	1998	46%	75%	1.6x

Statistics compiled from Centre for Justice Statistics; FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Data, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada Homicide Survey; Research and Statistics Division Department of Justice (Kwing Hung) June 2001

APPENDIX 5

Pair arrested at border with arsenal in trunk

Tue Oct 2 2001

<http://www.cbc.ca>

WINDSOR, ONT. - Two U.S. men were arrested on the weekend trying to bring assault rifles and other weapons into Canada.

Kellee Mayer and Michael Tindall, both in their 20s, and both from Missouri are charged with several offences. During a random search of a car at the border crossing at Windsor on Sunday, police found a .45-calibre handgun and 106 rounds of ammunition on the back seat.

Inside the trunk, they found a pair of AK-47 assault rifles with five loaded magazines, a machete, a sword, a set of brass knuckles, three martial arts throwing stars, pistol belts and magazine pouches.

Mayer and Tindall are in jail awaiting a court appearance.

Border check stops U.S. visitor with assault rifles

PUBLICATION The Vancouver Sun

DATE Wed 01 Aug 2001

SECTION/CATEGORY News

PAGE NUMBER A6

STORY TYPE Crime

BYLINE Brian Morton

A U.S. man who believes it's his "God-given right" to pack assault rifles in his vehicle was granted bail with two other U.S. citizens in Surrey provincial court Tuesday after allegedly trying to cross into Canada with two prohibited weapons and ammunition clips. The three, all in their early 20s, told Judge Patrick Hyde they were heading to Ashcroft for a gathering of the Rainbow Family of Living Light, a loosely knit group of people who gather together in North American forests to celebrate peace and harmony with nature. Timothy McIntyre, of Arizona; David Throop, of Oregon; and Danny Dedmore, also of Oregon, were arrested at the Peace Arch border crossing Friday after border officials found two assault rifles, including an AK-47, and ammunition clips. The three, who were told to return to court Thursday for a show-cause hearing, are each charged with possession of prohibited firearms and possession of prohibited devices (ammunition clips). McIntyre, who was granted bail of \$300, told the court he and the other two men -- who were granted bail of \$100 each -- were headed to the Rainbow gathering in Ashcroft after hearing about it in the U.S. He said he has had weapons since he was a child and believed it was his "God-given right" to carry one in his vehicle. McIntyre said they declared one of the weapons at the border, but felt it wasn't necessary to declare the other one because it was not operational. He said that if he had known he couldn't

bring such weapons into Canada, he wouldn't have done so. Meanwhile, one of the organizers of Ashcroft's Rainbow gathering, which started Saturday and runs until Sunday, said she has no idea why anyone would take weapons to the event, because it's supposed to be a celebration of peace and love. "I'm glad they were arrested," said a woman who identified herself as "Waterfall." "That has nothing to do with this at all. Usually it's about peace, love and goodwill [and] I think they would be asked to leave. We attract generous people who like to celebrate, play music and be truly free." Rainbow Family of Living Light Web sites list a regional gathering in Ashcroft this week. The sites say the first Rainbow meeting was held in 1972 in a forest near Colorado. A 1999 national gathering in Ridgway, Penn., drew around 20,000 people from across Europe and North America. State police assigned extra troopers to the area, while the U.S. Forest Service spent \$500,000 US to bring in its National Incident Management Team.

U.S. men held in bomb smuggling

PUBLICATION The Ottawa Citizen

DATE Sat 18 Aug 2001

SECTION/CATEGORY News

PAGE NUMBER A7

STORY TYPE Crime

WINDSOR -- Two Michigan men accused of attempting to smuggle bomb-making materials and ammunition into Canada will remain in a southern Ontario jail this weekend after appearing in court yesterday.

The men were to return to court Monday to face various weapons charges.

Customs officers discovered an arsenal in the trunk of a car with Michigan licence plates during a routine examination at the Ambassador Bridge on Monday morning.

They found a leather case containing a rifle, rounds of ammunition and a cloth bag containing three assembled pipe bombs. Materials for making five additional bombs and instructions for manufacturing a rifle silencer were also seized.

Windsor police tested the gunpowder and detonated the pipe bombs, said Staff Sgt. Ed McNorton.

"They were fully functional," he said. The two men in the vehicle indicated they were bound for New York. John Aubuchon, 18, and James Treppa, 19, both of Redford Township, Mich., were charged with possession of an explosive substance, possession of a prohibited weapon, possession of a firearm without being the holder of a valid firearms licence and possession of noxious substances.

APPENDIX 6- Illicit Trafficking Incidents

Country	Type & quantity of weapons	Circumstances and [mis] use	Date	Source of info / data
Albania	12,000 AK-47s [to Macedonia] 6,000 [to Kosova]	Recent government figures indicate 517,000 weapons were stolen following looting of military depots across the country in 1997. A significant number are thought to have been trafficked to Kosova and elsewhere.		Interview with N. Kushti, Awareness Information Officer for the UNDP project in Albania to S. Shropshire
	1,500 [to Greece]			R. Castle and A.F. Musah, 1998 provided by
	64 Kalashnikov rifles, 45 assault rifles, 19 automatic weapons	Confiscated by Albanian police along with grenades and rockets from two Greek citizens attempting to smuggle the weapons out of the country.	02/1998	FE/RL Newsline, 9 February 1998
	1,000 Kalashnikovs and unspecified number of Albania-made machine guns	Seized in Albania. The arms were apparently headed for Kosovo.	07/1998	RFE/RL Newsline, 21 July 1998
	500 Kalashnikov machine guns	Three trucks filled with arms were stopped by police in Fushe Kruja, in central Albania. Hundreds of boxes of cartridges, grenades and mortars were also seized.	05/1998	RFE/RL Newsline, 5 May 1998
	50 sub-machine guns	A cache of weapons smuggled from Albania and intended for Kosovo was seized by Macedonian police. Over 100 grenades, 17,000 cartridges and a large amount of explosives were also seized.	July 1998	Itar-Tass, 2 July 1998
Argentina	21 weapons including FAL assault rifles, sub-machine guns and 9 mm pistols	Confiscated from gang members in Buenos Aires following police arrest. Along with the guns, 100 grams of cocaine, 150 grams of marijuana and 33 stolen cars were also seized.	10 / 1996	G. Khatchik and P.C. Leandro 1998
	4,000 assault rifles	A retired army lieutenant colonel was a suspect in connection with illegal sales of Argentine arms to Ecuador in 1995 during its war with neighboring Peru, in violation of a United Nations embargo. At the time of writing, it is unclear whether the case has come to Court (as of August 1998, the suspect was in South Africa which was refusing an extradition request).	1995	Reuters, "Argentina Slams S. Africa Over Arms Dealer", Buenos Aires, 26 August 1998
Australia	Unspecified quantity of automatic rifles and pistols	There have been investigations into the activities of the Royal Australian Navy, going back to the 1980s. One report alleges Navy personnel were stealing firearms from Navy stores. The firearms included SLRs, and Browning 9mm automatic pistols. A further allegation was that Navy personnel were bringing in firearms, such as Beretta handguns and automatic rifles purchased in Hawaii.		CSCAP Working Group on Transnational Crime. "Small Arms Project: An Australian Perspective", 1999
Austria	280 sub-machine guns	180 were seized from a ring of illegal arms dealers; 100 remain unaccounted for. The authorities think they were probably sold off to the criminal underworld in Vienna.	04 / 1988	FBIS Daily Report, Ring of Arms Dealers 'Busted'; More Than 180 Arms Seized, April 1998

Border Controls in Canada: Impact on Illicit Trafficking and Public Safety - 14

	205 pistols	Authorities thwarted an attempt to smuggle 205 Yugoslavian pistols from Austria to Rotterdam via Germany. A Bulgarian citizen acted as a 'middleman'.		International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
	43 pistols	An arms dealer from an arms shop in Vienna had given 43 pistols, brand CZ, caliber 6.35 mm, to a gunsmith in Carinthia. The gunsmith intended to sell the pistols to a Yugoslavian citizen.		International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
	30 handguns	In the course of two legal arms deliveries from an Austrian firm to a firm in Germany, 30 pieces of short firearms were stolen. It is not known at which point along the transit route the arms were stolen.		International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
	6 pistols, machine guns	French national smuggled firearms from Hungary en route to France	1997	Interpol General Secretary, Firearms and Explosives Draft Survey Results, 1999
	38 mm Magnum	German national smuggled a shotgun from Hungary	1997	Interpol General Secretary, Firearms and Explosives Draft Survey Results, 1999
	40 rifles	These high-precision rifles manufactured in Austria were confiscated by Italian police in the port of Trieste. The guns were in a truck with an Albanian driver and had been driven from Switzerland. A Swiss dealer admitted to having sold the guns to four Yugoslavs who are thought to have been intending to traffic the weapons to Albania. The serial numbers of the guns had been erased.	1999	FBIS Daily Report, Arms Smugglers Exposed, 20 May 1999
Bangladesh	500 assault rifles, 80 machine guns	Weapons travelling to unspecified westward destination were intercepted by Bangladeshi officials.	1996	Jane's Defense Weekly, "Bangladesh Seized Arms Vessel off its Coastline", March 27-April 3, 1996
Belarus		708 persons were convicted for bearing, possessing, acquiring, manufacturing or selling firearms without official authorization over this 18-month period.	01/1994 to 06/1995	International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
Belgium	Hand guns and rifles, unspecified quantity and type	Arms and drugs trafficker Geda Mezozy, now in prison in Belgium, supplied firearms to night clubs in Spain and Belgium. Mezozy favored weapons from Eastern Europe and the Balkans.		J. Peleman, 1998, "A Case Study of the Southern Balkans" presentation at a workshop in Vienna organized by the governments of Canada, Switzerland, Norway and the Netherlands, "Small Arms and Light Weapons: An Issue for the OSCE", Vienna, 9-10 November 1998
	6 Kalashnikov rifles, 1 Scorpion machine pistol, unspecified number of handguns	Police uncovered an arms-smuggling ring near Liege and seized the weapons which were all of Eastern European origin. The weapons were destined for overseas markets.	March 1998	Reuters, 17 March 1998
Brazil	53 weapons, including AR-15 and .223 Ruger rifles	Seized by Sao Paulo police. The shipment also contained 130 kilos of cocaine. The route involved shipping the arms and drugs from Bolivia and Paraguay in lumber trucks, and then moving it to Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro in other vehicles.	1995	M. Klare and D. Andersen, 1996

Border Controls in Canada: Impact on Illicit Trafficking and Public Safety - 15

	15 guns, including a U.S. M-16, a Chinese AK-47 and a Belgium FAL	Drug smuggling prompted armed clashes in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro between security forces and traffickers in October 1995. The arms were seized after a bout of violence which left 77 dead.	07/1996	G. Khatchik and P.C. Leandro, 1998
	1,116 [type not specified]	Number of firearms seized in Rio de Janeiro, manufactured in Argentina, accounting for 2.5% of total firearms seized.	1994 to March 1999	FBIS Daily Report, 'Brazil To Push For Gun Control Within Mercosur', 3 Aug 99
	44,437 [type not specified]	Number of firearms seized in Rio de Janeiro, manufactured in Brazil, accounting for 83 % of total firearms seized.	1994 to March 1999	FBIS Daily Report, 3 August 1999
	2,987 [type not specified]	Number of firearms seized in Rio de Janeiro, manufactured in the United States, accounting for 6.72% of total firearms seized.	1994 to March 1999	FBIS Daily Report, 3 August 1999
	5 Swiss Sig Sauer assault rifles and 1 Swiss-made pistol	Seized in Rio. The author hypothesizes that the guns were either sold legally to a Paraguayan dealer who in turn sold them to Brazilian dealers responsible for their illegal import into Brazil, or that Columbia might be the entry port.	1995-96	G. Khatchik and P.C. Leandro 1998
	99 (type unspecified)	Weapons originated in U.S. seized during drug raids by Brazilian authorities.		"Brazil-US Counternarcotics Cooperation: Fighting the Illegal Trade of Weapons, statement by Brazilian diplomat at a discussion hosted by BASIC, March, 1996
	Unspecified quantity and type	Illegal arms arrive in Brazil smuggled via Paraguay. Most are destined for San Paulo or Rio de Janeiro for organized crime.		International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
Bulgaria	\$25-million of light weapons and small arms [surface-to-air missiles, AK-47/74s]	Transferred to Croatia.	1993	R. Castle and A.F. Musah, 1998
	Assault rifles, machine guns and handguns, unspecified quantity	A number of illegal weapon production workshops were discovered in Kazanluk. Underground storage facilities were full of ammunition and handguns of various calibres. The homes of those arrested had been turned into small factories with modern equipment for producing weapons. Most of the weapons were being sold very cheaply on the country's black market. Recently produced Kalashnikovs and Makarov handguns, without registration numbers, were seized during the operation. An AK-M machine gun was also seized.		FBIS Daily Report, "Illegal Weapon Producing Shops Discovered in Kazanluk" April 3 1998
Burkina Faso	Unspecified quantity and type	According to customs sources, firearms seized come from Ghana and Mali, and are of Russian, Czech, Italian, French and Spanish origin. Illegal imports of firearms primarily involve hunting rifles smuggled into the territory of Burkina Faso for commercial purposes. Smugglers use mostly land frontiers, where it is easy for them to evade the security of customs control posts.		International Study on Firearms Regulation database

Border Controls in Canada: Impact on Illicit Trafficking and Public Safety - 16

Canada	Unspecified quantity and type	The most prevalent source of illegal import in Canada is the United States. Known methods include: mail/telephone orders; courier service deliveries; U.S. visitors leaving their firearms behind with friends or using them to pay their hunting guide; Canadians visiting U.S. gun shows and returning with undeclared firearms and parts; domestic manufacture/assembly of restricted and prohibited firearms from imported parts; association with other smuggled commodities such as tobacco, alcohol and drugs. Specific "commercial" methods for illegal smuggling identified were short-orders, false documentation and reporting; concealment with other commodities and diversion.		International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
		Project Pinball Project Gun Runner Joint Investigations revealed straw purchases in the U.S., as well as licit to illicit		Geoff Francis, op.cit. Report of the Smuggling Work Group, op. cit.
China	14 pistols	A Vietnam firearm dealer was seized in December 1996 by the frontier guards of Nanning district Guangxi province. The guards captured 7 military pistols, 1 model 54, 6 model 59s.	1996-97	International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
	914 revolvers	Confiscated by the police of Hangzhou municipal Zhejiang province from two dealers.	Jan 1997	International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
	2000 AK 47 assault rifles	Two representatives of state-run Chinese arms companies Northern Industrial Corp. (NORINCO) and Polytech were arrested in California for smuggling the AK-47s into the United States.	1996	AFP (Hong Kong), 'PRC Spokesman Comments on Case of Arms Smuggling Into U.S.', May 23, 1996
Columbia	200 firearms - [type unknown]	Seized from drug lord Ivan Urbinola. All the weapons had been legally purchased in the U.S., legally imported and registered in Colombia, before being used to commit a series of murders by paramilitary hit-men (straw purchases).	1993	D. Jaramillo, 1998
	A large shipment of weapons - [type and precise quantity unknown]	Purchased by the FARC through a web of bogus firms from Portuguese companies. The arms were en route to Colombia via Jamaica when intercepted by the Colombian authorities.	1991	D. Jaramillo, 1988
	100 Israeli made weapons	The narcotics guerrilla unit of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), operating on Ecuadorian territory, took possession of the weapons together with 30,000 projectiles of various calibres.	1996	International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
	6 Mak-90; 1 shotgun, 2 grenades	Police recovered firearms	1995	Interpol General Secretary, Firearms and Explosives Draft Survey Results, 1999
	AK-47 assault rifles (quantity unknown)	In Colombian port of Turbo, Russian criminals provided Colombian drug traffickers with weapons and military equipment in exchange for cocaine and narcotics to sell in Russia and Eastern Europe. Weapons may have ultimately been for paramilitary operations or the Cali drug cartel.	1997	Washington Post, September 29, 1997
Costa Rica	Pistols and assault rifles	9mm pistols and AK-47s were illegally brought in from Nicaragua. Handguns from the United States are often illegally brought into the country for sale or personal defense.		International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
	75 machine guns and 175 pistols	Half-shipment of weapons from Israel disappeared enroute to Costa Rica, including Neguev machine guns and Jericho pistols.	1997	Honduras La Prensa, April 8, 1997

Border Controls in Canada: Impact on Illicit Trafficking and Public Safety - 17

Czech Republic	300 T-65 rifles	The guns, destined for criminal gangs in Honduras were trafficked from the Czech republic. Honduras' Military Chief denied accusations that Honduran troops in the Czech Republic were responsible.	1997	R. Castle and A.F. Musah, 1998
	100	police uncovered a workshop producing weapons from spare parts and reactivating firearms. Organizers were Czech and German.		Interpol General Secretary, Firearms and Explosives Draft Survey Results, 1999
	13,900 sub-machine guns	Authorities uncovered an attempt to export 5,700 sub-machine guns model 61 on a counterfeit certificate of the armed forces of the Dominican Republic, and a counterfeit certificate of the Sudan Ministry of Defense for purchase of 8,200 sub-machine guns model 61. Weapons are legally purchased from the manufacturer or from the Army of the Czech Republic and then are illegally sold to non-existing, fictitious firms. Counterfeit documents are used. These weapons are consequently sold in the domestic market.		International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
Ecuador	grenades and firearms ammunition	Recovered in trucks and buses from Peru destined for Columbia concealed in coffee bales		Interpol General Secretary, Firearms and Explosives Draft Survey Results, 1999
	15,012 firearms	Seized by police — 7 Ecuadorians and 1 Columbian were arrested		Interpol General Secretary, Firearms and Explosives Draft Survey Results, 1999
Estonia	1,600 pistols	The consignment of smuggled arms was seized by Estonian customs officers en route to St. Petersburg, according to officials. The weapons were in boxes indicated in the customs declaration as containing macaroni and described in the declaration as a transit cargo.	1996	FBIS Daily Report, 23 July 1996
	Revolvers and pistols, unspecified quantity	Several criminal groups in Estonia specialize in trading arms mostly from Russia to former CIS states. Pistols, automatic weapons and revolvers originating from Russia, Poland, Germany, Finland and Ukraine are trans-shipped via Narva (land), Tallinn (sea, air), Iksa (land) for illegal re-export to the CIS countries. Firearms, mostly pistols and revolvers, are also smuggled into Estonia from Poland, Germany and Finland, destined for criminals and individuals.		International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
	1,310 handguns and pump action shotguns	The headquarters chief of financial affairs is suspected by police of being the mastermind of illicit deals. Approximately 1,310 weapons have been sold illegally; 800 of these are still missing. According to the Estonians, the deal was based on an order for supplementary weapons that was fabricated at headquarters. Purchasers were able to choose from Smith & Wessons, Argentinean FMs, or Chinese NZ. According to police investigators, the control was the responsibility of the receiving country. The arms have been delivered in small shipments. One shipment of 50 was just about to depart when the Central Criminal Police contacted the company two weeks	1995	FBIS Report "Illegal Sales at Estonian Headquarters of Arms Purchased in Finland", 26 Sep 1995
Finland	40,000 handguns and 25,000 assault rifles	Then-Interior Minister, Heiki Arike, granted a gun shop owned by acquaintances a permit to import 25,000 Kalashnikov assault weapons, and 40,000 Tokarev military handguns from Poland and Austria. These weapons have disappeared, with only occasional single guns turning up in the hands of criminals.	1994	FBIS Report "Illegal Sales at Estonian Headquarters of Arms Purchased in Finland", 26 Sep 1995
	Unspecified quantity and type	January 1995, 130 firearms, including bazookas and hand grenades, were confiscated from Finnish chapters of the Hell's Angels and Banditos motorcycle gangs.		International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
	2,000 handguns	Illegality has been observed exporting, especially to Estonia and Russia. In certain cases, the order documents of the Estonian Defense Forces and civil guards have been forged. It can be estimated that on the basis of export in 1993 - 1994, about 2,000 short handguns have ended up in the hands of criminals in Estonia and Russia. One case involved about 30 short handguns that were transported from Czechoslovakia to Estonia via Finland.	1993-95	International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
Fiji	AK47s and light machine guns, unspecified	Two container loads of arms including Soviet made AK47s and light machine guns were smuggled to Fiji from the Middle East. The consignment was shipped via Australia, marked as machinery spares.	1987	International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999

Border Controls in Canada: Impact on Illicit Trafficking and Public Safety - 18

	quantity			
France	Unspecified quantity and type	Servicing a full range of buyers, French gangsters bought and sold unknown quantities of light arms while operating out of the French embassy in Beirut.		<i>L'Express</i> , August 3, 1990
	100 weapons unspecified type	A big arms trafficking ring between Strasbourg, the Paris region, and Corsica was broken up and 100 weapons were seized.	1998	Paris France-2 Television Network, 1800 GMT 30 Apr 98
Germany	Unspecified quantity and type	In one major case associated with the withdrawal of the Western Group of the former Soviet army from the territory of the former GDR, Russian military personnel actively sought black markets to sell whatever property for which they could find a buyer. Weapons were smuggled into former Yugoslavia. Weapons were also sold to civilians and collectors. Arms dealers purchased an unknown quantity of firearms and ammunition.	1993-95	International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
Ghana	11 shotguns of Russian/Eastern European origin	The guns were in two trucks seized by customs officers.	March 1998	Panafrican News Agency, 4 March 1998
Guatemala	87 firearms, type not specified	Confiscated by the authorities from drug gangs during seizures of cocaine.	1997	FBIS Daily Reports, Police Spokesman on Guatemala City T.V., 17 October 1997
	Unspecified quantity and type	The Guatemalan government currently holds 280 legal cases against legitimate arms dealers for selling firearms to drug traffickers.		W. Godnick, 'Illicit arms in Central America', presentation at a workshop in Vienna organized by the governments of Canada, Switzerland, Norway and the Netherlands, "Small Arms and Light Weapons: An Issue for the OSCE", Vienna, 9-10 November 1998
	AK-47's, unspecified quantity	Police arrested five Guatemalan guerrillas transporting the arms near the Mexican border.	02/1997	Associated Press, 'El Salvador: Calderon Sol voices concerns over arms shipments in the region', 22 February 1997
	1,498 AK rifles; 55 GPMG / BMG / LMG / SMG rifles; 99 other types of rifle; 194 pipe guns; 1,213 pistols and revolvers	Arms and ammunition seized from 1st January, 1994 to August, 1996 in border states.	1994-96	International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
India	300 AK-47s, 20,500 rounds of ammunition	Arms and ammunition were dropped from a plane in the province of West Bengal. The route used and players involved covered 6 countries and 3 continents.	1995	India Today, Straining Credibility, "March 31, 1996
	U.S. and Chinese weapons, unspecified quantity and type	Indian officials seized a large shipment of arms which originated in Cambodia and was routed through Thailand.	1997	Times of India, February 13, 1997

Border Controls in Canada: Impact on Illicit Trafficking and Public Safety - 19

	300 assault rifles	A Danish citizen hired a British arms dealer, together they bought a Russian cargo plane in Latvia and had it flown to Bulgaria where it was loaded with 77 cases of weapons, including 300 assault rifles, ammunition, pistols, hand grenades and rocketlaunchers. The plane then flew to India where the weapons were parachuted down over the Indian village of Purulia. The deal was financed out of Hong Kong. The intended recipient was a violent religious sect.	1995	The New York Times, "Murky Life of an International Gun Dealer", Bonner. R, 14 July 1998
Iran	Unspecified quantity and type	Number of incidences of smuggling of firearms by an Iranian, 95; involving a foreigner, 38.	1994-95	International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
Israel	Assault rifles, unspecified quantity	An arms dealer bought surplus assault rifles in Israel, sawed them in half and shipped them to Canada, allegedly as scrap metal. Once they arrived, they were to be welded back together and re-sold. Operation was uncovered and halted by the RCMP.		Naylor, R.T., 1995, "Loose Cannons: Covert commerce and underground finance in the modern arms black market"
	10 U.S. M-16 assault rifles, 5 handguns	An Israeli sergeant from the Rihan post in the central sector of the occupied border zone in South Lebanon and an SLA militiaman were arrested August 1995 for smuggling the weapons into Israel, and selling them for \$1,000 U.S. dollars each.	1995	Xinhua, 'Israeli Soldiers Involved in Smuggling', 6 July 1996
Jamaica	1 U.S. M-16 rifle, 1 AK47, 1 Chinese 7.6mm rifle, 19mm Louver pistol and 1.22 Raven pistol	Jamaican security forces seized the weapons and 273 rounds of ammunition during an operation on the port of Kingston.	February 1998	Reuters, 'Jamaican Police Make Major Arms, Ammo Seizure', 20 February 1999
	338 assorted firearms, including M16s	The arms were confiscated by the authorities. Weapons included SMG, M16, rifles and handguns, mostly originating from the U.S.. They were intended for market distribution in Jamaica for robberies and drug-related crimes.	1995	International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
	Unspecified quantity and type	According to Jamaica's Senate, the U.S. is a major source of illegal guns flowing into Jamaica. A Government spokesperson said that, in recent discussions with U.S officials, the Americans claimed there was very little they could do to stem the flow of guns because of the many points of exit on the American mainland. The arms-smuggling issue was among a number of concerns raised by National Security Minister K.D. Knight when he met with U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno and other law enforcement officials in Washington in 1999.	1999-2000	Reuters, Jamaican Legislators Lash U.S. Gun Export Policy, 25 February 2000
Japan	2,000 handguns	The haul of Tokarev-type handgun models 54 and 77 were reported to have been smuggled from China in 1990. The Japanese suspects were believed to have hired fishing boats to bring the handguns ashore in fishing ports under little coastal police surveillance.	1990	International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
	800 weapons, unspecified type	A South Africa illicit trafficking route was discovered in a series of incidents in which approximately 800 firearms were smuggled into Japan concealed in a fishing vessel.	1995	International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
	7,169 handguns	The manufacturing origin of seized handguns: 1991-1995: U.S., 2,218; China, 1,426; Philippines, 578; Italy, 380; Brazil, 324; Belgium, 218; Spain, 197; Germany, 180; Former USSR, 24; Others, 1,264.	1991-95	International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
	211 handguns	The Philippines, U.S. and Thailand rank at the top of the countries from which illegal handguns have been shipped to Japan. The smuggling routes for handguns have shown a pattern of greater diversification in recent years, with incidents such as the smuggling-in of handguns by deep-sea fishermen from South Africa, crews from Russia and fishermen from China. Handguns by country, and number of smuggled handguns seized for the years 1991-1995: U.S., 65; Thailand, 61; Philippines, 58; Argentina, 7; South Africa, 7; Russia, 3; Other, 10. Of the 211 guns, 106 had been smuggled by air, and 105 had been smuggled by sea. Most handguns smuggled from China and South Africa are believed to have been sold to members of Boryokudan crime gang. There are some 20 cases of murder and/or robbery known to police where one or some of the smuggled handguns were used by members of Boryokudan.	1991-95	International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999

Border Controls in Canada: Impact on Illicit Trafficking and Public Safety - 20

Jordan	60 Kalishnikovs, 6 hunting rifles, 38 handguns	The weapons were seized in two boats which tried to slip from Jordan through the Dead Sea into Israel.	March 1998	FBIS Daily Report, 1 Mar 1998
	Over 450 automatic rifles, machine guns, pistols and ammunition	Jordanian officials make seizure after weapons were smuggled into Jordan by extremist political groups. Weapons were bound for illegal sale outside of Jordan.	1997	Reuters, October 12, 1997
Kenya	AK47s and U.S. origin handguns, unspecified quantity	Illegal firearms are frequently imported through Kenya's five borders. They are used in various crimes, including cattle rustling.		International Study on Firearms Regulation database
Kosovo	Assault rifles and pistols	The KLA are alleged to have set up arms bazaars in bars around Kosova. A UK journalist reports being offered guns, including AK-47s for DM150 and Browning semi-automatic pistols for DM80. The traffic is now reaching the UK according to the reporter who alleges AKM and AK-74 assault rifles, explosives, RPG-7 rocket-propelled grenades, M2HB Browning heavy machine guns and Claymore anti-personnel mines were circulating in London.	1999	The Independent (Internet version) "Western Europe KLA Accused of Selling Weapons", London, 16 Aug 99
Macedonia	11 automatic weapons	Police arrested 10 people and confiscating a large quantity of weapons, including; 11 automatic guns; 6 grenades and 1,177 rounds of ammunition. The weapons are believed to have been smuggled in from Albania.	January 1998	Reuters, '22 January 1998
Mexico	3,376 firearms, unspecified type	Confiscated by Mexico authorities and reported to the U.S. BATF as unlawfully acquired U.S.-origin firearms.	1994	L. Lumpe, 1997
	US M2 automatic rifles, unspecified quantity but reportedly the weapons filled two containers each of 20 feet x 8 feet x 8 feet	Seized by U.S. federal troops at the Otay Mesa border crossing, California. En route to Mexico, the weapons had traveled from Ho Chi Minh City to Singapore on to Germany, through the Panama Canal before entering the U.S.. It was never verified whether Mexico was the final destination. A third container, intercepted at Long Beach California, was sent back to Ho Chi Minh City, from whence it was re-shipped via Thailand back to the Long Beach and on to New York. What happened to the arms after they reached New York is unclear.	03/1997	San Diego Union-Tribune, 'Truckloads of illegal arms found: Grenade launchers, carbines came through Long Beach, bound for Mexico', March 14 1997
	16,000 handguns 6,000 rifles	Seized by Mexican police from drug gangs. The weapons were meant for the exclusive use of the army. An Office of the Attorney General of the Republic (PGR) report points out that the main routes used by arms traffickers "each time that arms are trafficked from Canada and the U.S. to Southern Mexico, and afterward to Central America, are the same routes that are used by drug traffickers, only in reverse." The report indicates that the Pacific, Gulf, and Central Baja California geographic routes are used to traffic German, Japanese, Italian, and French weapons, "although, because of the volume and demands of Mexican buyers," weapons made in the United States "are predominant. A total of 16,000 handguns and 6,000 rifles meant for the exclusive use of the Army were also seized. These weapons were seized mainly in Baja California, Jalisco, Sinaloa, Sonora, and Tamaulipas. According to the Mexican authorities, types of handguns preferred by drug criminals are these: The .380 Magnum, .38-caliber revolvers, 9mm and 10mm pistols. Preferred rifles are the AK-47 followed by the AR-15, and U.S. M-1.	1994-95	FBIS Report Document, "Mexico Drug Trafficking Groups 'Promoting' Arms Trafficking", 27 September 1996
	6,238 unspecified type	In 1994, foreign governments reported 6,238 unlawfully acquired U.S. made firearms to the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms. Over half of them were discovered in Mexico.	1994	L. Lumpe, The Evolution of US Policy on Small/Light Arms, 1997
	1 assault rifle, 1 sub-machine gun, 1 handgun	In San Jose in the state's eastern section, judicial agents confiscated an AK-47, an Uzi, a Colt 45 three AK-47 loaders, two more for a 5.56, five for a 45-caliber pistol, and one for a 6mm gun. The weapons and nearly two tons of packed marijuana were found in an abandoned pickup truck painted in military colors.	1995	FBIS Daily Report, "Judicial agents succeeded in confiscating nearly two tons of packed marijuana...", 16 Dec 1995

		99 out of 100 weapons captured in drug raids were smuggled from the U.S..		Washington Post, "Mexico asks US to Track Guns Being Imported by Drug Cartels", 5 November 1996
	7,200, unspecified type	Seized by Mexican police in non-drug related crimes.	1995	L. Lumpe, 1997
Mozambique	Unspecified quantity of pistols and automatic weapons	According to the government, there is anecdotal evidence of the smuggling of firearms into New Zealand, including pistols and automatic weapons. However, there is no corroborative evidence gathered from police/customs interceptions.		International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
	Unspecified quantity and type	A member of Mozambique's Presidential Guard, along with two former high-ranking army officers and South African Foreign Ministry official Robert McBride, were arrested and charged with arms trafficking.	03/04/1998	The New York Times on the web, "Arms Arrests in Mozambique," April 16, 1998
Namibia	13 47-AK	Seized at Northern border, Angolans had exchanged the weapons for food and a small amount of cash.	1997	Interpol General Secretary, Firearms and Explosives Draft Survey Results, 1999
New Zealand	Unspecified quantity of pistols and automatic weapons	According to the government, there is anecdotal evidence of the smuggling of firearms into New Zealand including pistols and automatic weapons. However, there is no corroborative evidence gathered from police customs interceptions.		International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
Nicaragua	700 AK-47's	Weapons were distributed to farmers by the Nicaraguan army for protection against armed criminals. 700 AKs were subsequently found to be unaccounted for and are beginning to appear on the black market.	09/1998	W. Godnick, 1998
Pakistan	Unspecified	Corrupt officials involved with the Afghan resistance sold arms to whoever had the means to purchase them.		Mohammed Yousaf, The Bear Trap, London: 1992
Panama	100 AK-47's and ammunition	Police in Panama arrested a former Panamanian armed forces officer after seizing a shipment of weapons bound for South America.	1997	Panama City La Prensa, September 30, 1997
Papau New Guinea	Rifles, pistols, unspecified quantity	According to the government, there have been various incidents of trafficking of .22 rifles, 9mm pistols and high-powered firearms. Smuggled firearms have been used in criminal acts of armed robbery, murder, tribal fights and the aiding of rebel elements on Bougainville. The most frequent point of entry of firearms is through the Torres Strait and they normally come through Australia. Other points of entry are through the waters of the Milne Bay Province, not normally policed by the authorities, and the North Solomons Province through the Solomon Islands and along the land border between Indonesia.		International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
Paraguay	Unspecified quantity and type	The Brazilian government claimed 80% of guns confiscated from mafias in Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro entered Brazil illegally through the two Paraguayan cities of Ciudad del Este and Pedro Juan Caballero. Ciudad del Este, in particular, has emerged as a criminal outpost for regional and international mafias and makes use of counterfeit goods, smuggling, cheap electronics, drug-trafficking, and the small arms trade.		G. Khatchik and P.C. Leandro, 1998
	Automatic rifles, unspecified quantity	Paraguayan officials reported that a large shipment of automatic rifles discovered at the Asunción airport had not been ordered by the armed forces, as indicated on accompanying documents, but was in all likelihood intended for illicit dealers with links to other countries.	1995	M. Klare, M. and D. Andersen, 1996

Peru	10 rifles, including AKMs and FALs	Confiscated by the National Anti-drug Direction and the National Intelligence Service from four high-ranking members of a drug organization.	05 / 1998	Expreso, "Fusiles e instalazas usaban 'Champa' y 'Tio Abraham'", 6 May 1998
	6 FAL rifles	Confiscated by the National Anti-drug Direction and National Intelligence Service from a member of a drug trafficking organization.	04/ 1998	Expreso, "Fusiles e instalazas usaban 'Champa' y 'Tio Abraham'", 6 May 1998
Philippines	Parts for handguns	Customs confiscated approx. 12,000 rounds of assorted ammunition, handgun spare parts and magazines for handguns in October 1996. The shipment was coming from the U.S.	1996	International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
	3 x .38 calibre Smith & Wesson handguns	The Prosecutor's office arrested 5 smugglers. The weapons had come into the country via Pusan international port.	1996	International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
Poland	Unspecified quantity and type	Guns with a recorded criminal history and arms that have not been registered by police are easily bought on the black market. Criminal 'accessories' are delivered to Poland across the western and southern border. A majority of victims of organized crime die from 9mm bullets. Among guns of this caliber confiscated by police, P-64 type, P-83 type, Czech-produced CZ type, Russian-produced "makarov" type and TZ type constitute a dominant part.		FBIS Daily Report, "Gangsters' Armory", January 1999
	Several dozen pistols and rifles from the U.S. and Canada	Officers of the General Customs Inspectorate [GIC] intercepted the arms on entry into Poland in parcels sent by post from the United States and Canada. These were used firearms and were thought to be destined for criminal gangs active within Poland. Polish Customs Police said they suspected that firearms may have been smuggled in this way for several years before being noticed.	1996	FBIS Daily Report 4 Nov 1996
	Ammunition	In Cieszyn, a Polish citizen was detained while crossing the Czech-Polish border; 800 pieces of ammunition type "Browning" and "Langer" were found in his car. The ammunition was smuggled from the Czech Republic.		International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
	5 pistols	German customs officers detained a Polish citizen who was crossing the Polish-German border by taxi, with 5 pistols, 5 magazines and 9mm ammunition. The alleged recipients were Poles staying in Germany.	1996	International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
	11 pistols	11 pistols and revolvers were stolen from a gun shop. The thieves had intended to smuggle the firearms to Germany, then sell them to Dutch and German citizens of Turkish nationality.	1996	International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
	50 guns	a government authorized dealer was found to have sold the guns illegally	1998	Interpol General Secretary, Firearms and Explosives Draft Survey Results, 1999
	9 pistols and rifles	Police in Warsaw detained a man who was offering to sell FN 910 pistols and Mauser pistols, ammunition and hand-grenades. Investigations resulted in the seizure 9 handguns and long guns.	1994-96	International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
Republic of Korea	1 x .22 calibre Japanese-made Browning handgun; 1 x .22 calibre U.S.-made Barettta handgun; 1 x .22 calibre handgun of unknown origin	Seoul District Prosecutors office arrested 6 smugglers. The weapons were smuggled through Kimpo international airport (Seoul).	1997	International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999

Border Controls in Canada: Impact on Illicit Trafficking and Public Safety - 23

Russia	70 firearms, unspecified type	A group of Russian servicemen responsible for guarding weapons were arrested for attempting to sell the weapons.	1997	FBIS Daily Report, FBIS-SOV-97-024, 5 February, 1997
	AK-47s, unspecified quantity	Russian Mafia groups sold a shipment of Aks, together with other heavier weaponry, to Colombian drug traffickers on a 'arms for drugs' exchange.	1991-97	R. Castle and A.F. Musah, 1998
	\$1 billion of arms, unspecified quantity and type	Transferred to Armenia without any state-to-state agreement or government permission.	1992 - 1996	R. Castle and A.F. Musah, 1998
	9 Beretta pistols, 1 Czech made sub-machine gun, 2 U.S. made sub-machine guns	The St. Petersburg branch of the Federal Security Service detained a gang of arms traders as they were handing over the goods to the buyer. The weapons were found in their car. A Lithuanian citizen was the head of the gang.	Dec 1997	FBIS Daily Report, FBIS 26 Dec 97
	7.62mm rifles, unspecified quantity and type	Police arrested three people in Saratovskaya, South Russia and confiscated an unspecified number of 7.62mm rifles. The three had reportedly bought the arms from military personnel who had stolen them from a military depot in Molokino in 1997. The three were trying to sell the weapons when arrested.	May 1998	Itar-Tass, 23 May 1998
	1300 firearms, unspecified type	The 1998 report by the Russian border guards indicated that, in 1997, they had detained about 4,000 trespassers and confiscated 1,300 fire arms and 2,500 tonnes of drugs.	Jan 1997	Russian Border Service Gives 1997 Drugs, Firearms Figures Moscow, Jan 3 1998
	Approx. 20 pistols	A Moscow crime gang engaged in smuggling weapons from the Baltic states to Moscow was apprehended in 1995. The following firearms were seized: 7 Luger 22 pistols; six 5.6mm cal. Arminius revolvers; 800 rounds of German-made ammunition for them; a 35-cal. Super P-35 pistol and 100 rounds of Austrian-made 5.6mm ammunition; two small shot revolvers; two Para pistols; and 475 rounds of ammunition.		International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
	Pistols, Revolvers, sub-machine guns unspecified quantity	A large shipment of firearms was seized by Smolensk customs. The shipment was being transported to Russia by an Austrian national hidden on a truck-trailer for transporting motor vehicles. The following firearms were seized: three Uzi sub-machine guns with silencers; four Browning pistols; seven silencers for pistols and sub-machine guns; 3,000 rounds of ammunition; and a night vision scope. The vehicle had passed three customs checks before being uncovered.		International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
	\$7million (U.S.) worth of pistols	The IZHMASH weapons plant attempted to smuggle to abroad a major lot of Makarov pistols under a \$ 7-million barter. The illegal deal was disguised as a lawful commercial transaction.	1994-95	International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
	Large shipment of pistols, unspecified quantity	Two large shipments of Makarov pistols were uncovered in St. Petersburg. The pistols were destined for the U.S..	1994-95	International Study on Firearms Regulation database, ,August 1999
	Army surplus (quantity unknown)	The Kaliningrad free-enterprise zone facilitated the sale of a stockpile of surplus Russian army weapons.		Observer, August 16, 1992
Slovakia	4 machine guns, 6 handguns and 1 semi-automatic rifle	The Regional Police Force Directorate (KR PZ) seized this arsenal of weapons from citizens in the Kosice region in Eastern Slovakia.	Sept 1998	FBIS Daily Report, 8 Sep 1998

Border Controls in Canada: Impact on Illicit Trafficking and Public Safety - 24

Slovene	2 M-70; 1 MP56; 2 semi-auto rifles, 1 Beretta and grenades	Austrian army officer returning from Croatia had them concealed in an additional gas tank en route to Austria		Interpol General Secretary, Firearms and Explosives Draft Survey Results, 1999
South Africa	11,891 firearms, 106 pistols	Seized, along with 6,351 anti-personal mines and 3,192 337 rounds of ammunition under operation Rachel (South Africa and Mozambique police force operation).		M. Chachiua, 1999
	16,291 firearms arms, unspecified type	Seized by SAPS firearms unit.	1995	Gamba and Chachiua 'Small Arms Proliferation in Southern Africa: an Overview'
	1,800 assorted police weapons	932 were robbed from police officials, 321 were taken from homes of officers, 40 stolen from police vehicles, 44 stolen from private vehicles, 35 stolen after police car collisions in which police were killed or injured; 146 weapons have been recovered.	02/ 1998	The Star, 'South African Police Services Lose Over 1,800 Firearms' Cape Town, Feb 1998
	\$1.8 million worth of firearms	The United States Commerce Department barred a Cape Town firm, Suburban Guns, from importing U.S. firearms until 2007, after the firm falsified export documents to make it appear that the weapons were being sent to affiliates in Namibia and Zimbabwe.	1998	Business Day newspaper, 'Leading Pro-Gun Lobbyist Banned from US Gun Deals', South Africa, April 6, 1998
	24 AK 47 assault rifles	The rifles, concealed in a vehicle from Mozambique, were seized in Durban.		International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
	800 handguns	The handguns were illegally exported from South Africa to Japan by a dealer in Cape Town.	1989-92	International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
	Handguns and shotguns, unspecified quantity	U.S. customs in Miami seized an illegal consignment of shotguns, ammunitions and handguns from a Cape Town dealer.	1995	International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
	50 AK 47 assault rifles	The rifles, seized at Langeloop Trust, Kangwane, were from Mozambique Army Camp.	1994-95	International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
Sweden	500 — 1,000 firearms, unspecified type	The National Police Board estimates that 500 to 1,000 firearms are brought illegally into Sweden every year. About 1500 firearms are reported lost or stolen in Sweden every year. It could be assumed that some of these firearms are exported from Sweden for the purpose of illegal sale abroad.		International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
Taiwan	400 weapons mostly 9mm pistols of U.S. origin	According to the Director of the Criminal Investigation Bureau (CIB), at least 400 firearms, mostly 9mm handguns and some sub-machine guns, were smuggled into Taiwan from the U.S. over the previous few years. Official government sources claim that most major shooting cases in Taiwan involved the use of U.S.-made 9mm handguns.	1995	CAN, 'U.S. Urged To Crack Down on Gun Smuggling' April 11, 1995.
	620 firearms, unspecified type	Total number of firearms seized by police and customs, which proved to be illegal, included those seized at ports of entry and confiscated following criminal acts.	1997	The Ministry of the Interior (MOI) and National Police Administration www site
Turkey	27 handguns, Belgian Czech and Argentine origin	Seized by Turkish police in Sirnak/TR., 11 of the weapons were made in Belgium, 15 in the Czech republic and one in Argentina.	March 1996	International Study on Firearms Regulation database

Border Controls in Canada: Impact on Illicit Trafficking and Public Safety - 25

	2 Rocket, 34 rifles, 13 pistols	found in private vehicles en route from northern Iraq		Interpol General Secretary, Firearms and Explosives Draft Survey Results, 1999
	42 pistols (25 handmade)	found in private vehicles en route from northern Iraq		Interpol General Secretary, Firearms and Explosives Draft Survey Results, 1999
	43 hand-guns of Czech, Belgian, Spanish, Italian, French, German and Argentine origin	Seized by Turkish police in Afyon/TR. 8 were of Czech Republic origin, 4 Belgian, 2 Spanish, 7 Italian, 6 French, 2 German, 1 Argentine, and 8 unknown. 5 were hand-made hand guns. These handguns were hidden in private sections of cars and smuggled into Turkey by road from northern Iraq.	February 1996	International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
	50 hand-guns of Czech, Belgian, Spanish, Italian and Argentine origin	Seized by Turkish Police in Sirnak/TR. 24 were of Czech Republic origin, 6 Belgian, 1 Argentine, 4 Iraqi, 10 Spanish, 1 Italian, 4 unknown.	April 1996	International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
Tanzania	Pistols and rifles	Significant numbers of illegal firearm were seized during mounted police patrols along the borders with Burundi and Rwanda. For example, in the Kagera Region, 23 firearms were intercepted (5 SMGs, 1 SAR, 3 Pistols, 1 S/GUN 1 Rifle 2 FN and 10 home-made guns). In Kigoma region, 16 recoveries were made, involving 3 SMGs and 13 home-made guns.	1994-95	International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
Uganda	560 tonnes of arms, unspecified type	The Ugandan army detained 560 metric tonnes of assorted arms, which the Burundi defence ministry had bought in China. The consignment was being ferried on Ugandan territory without government consent and was seized immediately on arrival at border	December 1999	New Vision/Africa News Service, December 1999
United Kingdom	600 firearms	Operation ABONAR uncovered a legal dealer who was reactivating and cloning firearms which were distributed to Belgium, Cyprus, Eire.		Interpol General Secretary, Firearms and Explosives Draft Survey Results, 1999
	AK47s	Members of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) allegedly arranged arms transfers with rogue intelligence officers in South Africa. The IRA members were later arrested for shipping AK-47s from Mozambique.	1998	Sunday Times, "IRA linked to African arms deal," 15 March 1998
	Between 73 and 100 Mac-10 machine pistols*	A gun dealer legally imported deactivated MAC-10 machine pistols from the United States and converted them to fire live ammunition. The guns were sold through a criminal network complete with 9mm bullets and silencers. The dealer's contacts at a Kent gun club helped to distribute the weapons. Nineteen of the guns have been linked to crimes, including a murder in Brixton, London. Others were found during drugs raids in Manchester, Liverpool and Dublin. Deactivated, the guns sell for £300 to collectors. The reactivated weapons were sold at £1,100 each.	1998	The Times, 'Gangland armourer facing long jail term', London, 21 January, 1999 *The article states 73 guns have recovered. In May 1999, officials from the UK Foreign Office indicated to S Shropshire that approx. 100 Mach 10s had been reactivated
		Bulgarian suppliers were reportedly the source of a \$1.5 million arms deal between UK company Sandline International, and Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, the overthrown President of Sierra Leone.	1998	R. Castle and A.F. Musah, 1998
	Unspecified quantity and type	A large quantity of arms, including guns, ammunition and explosive devices, were seized from the home of an ex-soldier. Police believed the weapons were destined for foreign mercenaries.	November 1999	The Daily Mirror, 12 November 1999
	82 handguns, 62 rifles, 124 shotguns	Total number of firearms seized during 12 months. The majority of firearms seized were originally supplied by, or transited through, other EU Member States.	1994-95	International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999

Border Controls in Canada: Impact on Illicit Trafficking and Public Safety - 26

	19 Browning 9mm and Mk3 automatic pistols and 13 shotguns	Stolen from the Royal School of Artillery.	April 2000	Ministry of Defence press statement, April 12, 2000
United States	100 firearms	An FFL admitting diverting over 100 firearms to members of an Indian Reservation. Many of the firearms diverted by the FFL have been recovered in crimes by Canadian law enforcement agencies.	1994	US General Accounting Office, "Small Arms Parts: Poor Controls Invite Widespread Theft, Report GAO/NSIAD-94-21 (1994)
	Parts for M2 automatic rifles	Parts destined for Mexico were found in a sealed container falsely labeled as hand tools and strap hangers near San Diego. American soldiers originally left behind goods in Vietnam.	1997	<i>San Diego Union- Tribune, March 14, 1997</i>
	50 unspecified type firearms	Four Irish citizens were arrested on the charge of buying more than 50 guns and hundreds of rounds of armor-piercing ammunition and mailing them to Irish Republican Army sympathizers. A gun dealer from Boynton Beach admitted supplying them with dozens of weapons and, for an extra \$50 per gun, agreeing not to file all the federal paperwork.	1999	Miami Herald 25 January 2000
	Machine guns (over 50)	Undercover FBI agents arrested 6 U.S. Marines and 7 civilians for illegal weapons trafficking. Arrests were part of a larger investigation in south-eastern U.S. that focused on gun shows, military bases and dealers. Also recovered were explosives, rockets, land mines and other military devices.	1997	Washington Post, October 18, 1997
	160 9mm pistols	Uzi Eagle 9 mm semi-automatic pistols from a cache of 160 stolen from a Queens warehouse in late 1996 were turning up at crime scenes and during police searches in New York during 1998. The guns were stolen from an All-Pro Air Delivery warehouse near Kennedy Airport.	1996-98	New York Post, 'Stolen Uzi Cache Turning up in All the Worst Places', 5 July 1998, reporter Rocco Parascandola
	53 AR-15 rifles	In an operation by U.S. customs agents, several defendants were indicted for attempting to illegally export arms to Columbia.	1997	U.S. Dept. of Justice, Export Control Enforcement Unit, Significant Export Control Cases," September 5, 1997
	120 firearms, unspecified type	U.S. Customs successfully prosecuted a former Venezuelan security officer with trying to illegally ship arms to Venezuela.	1993-95	U.S. Dept. of Justice, Export Control Enforcement Unit, Significant Export Control Cases," September 5, 1997
	93 assault rifles, 22 handguns	Three Arizona residents purchased weapons for resale to a Mexican drug baron, who then smuggled the guns into Mexico.	1989	U.S. Dept. of the Treasury, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Firearms Division, "International Traffic in Arms", Report to Congress (1991)
	Small arms parts (precise quantity and type unknown)	Investigators from the U.S. General Accounting Office discovered that gun parts were routinely stolen from US military bases and resold at gun shows or to gun dealers. Investigators were able to purchase such parts at 13 of the 15 gun shows they targeted.	1994	U.S. General Accounting Office, "Small Arms Parts: Poor Controls Invite Widespread Theft, Report GAO/NSIAD-94-21 (1994)
	2,000 assault rifles	U.S. special agents seized a cargo ship of approximately 2000 disassembled machineguns (AK-47 types) and magazines.		International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
	45 pistols	An individual was arrested, having purchased a consignment of 30 Lorcin pistols. The individual was identified as a native of Romania, which is where the firearms were destined. The authorities also recovered 25 additional Lorcin and Raven Arms pistols. During the subsequent investigation, the three suspects' movements were traced from New York to Miami where they attended a gun show, to Dallas, Texas, where they attended another gun show and purchased a majority of the firearms, and to Meridian, Mississippi, where they were ultimately arrested.	1993	International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999

Border Controls in Canada: Impact on Illicit Trafficking and Public Safety - 27

	2 assault rifles	An informant stated that group members of an illicit drug manufacturing organization had purchased firearms to sell in Mexico. During subsequent investigations, two members of the organization traded 1 pound of methamphetamine with an undercover ATF special agent for two AK-47 machine guns.	1994	International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
	100 firearms, unspecified type	An FFL admitted diverting over 100 firearms to members of an Indian Reservation. Many of the diverted firearms have been used in crimes and recovered by police.	1994	International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
	150 firearms, unspecified type	ATF special agents arrested a member of a machine gun trafficking organization. This organization is being investigated for illegally trafficking machine guns to the criminal element in Canada from the Indian Reservation. Subsequent to his arrest, the subject admitted converting 150 firearms.	1994	International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
	32 pistols	A Georgia resident purchased 32 semiautomatic pistols from a pawnshop in Jonesboro, Georgia. All of the firearms were transported to Boston, where the Georgia resident sold them to a subject [of investigation], who, in turn, sold them to other individuals. 12 of the firearms have been recovered from crimes, including murder, assault with intent to murder, and home invasions around the Boston area.	1993-94	International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
	592 firearms, unspecified type	From September through November 1993, individuals illegally purchased 71 firearms in Grand Prairie, Texas, and transported them to St. Louis, Missouri. 24 of the firearms have been recovered at crime scenes in St. Louis. From July 1994 to October 1995, 21 individuals in Norfolk were involved in the illegal trafficking of firearms into Washington, DC. From May 1993 through January 1994, at least 13 subjects conspired to engage in trafficking firearms from Arizona to Los Angeles. These subjects purchased over 500 firearms. ATF seized 102 of the firearms.	1993-94	International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
Uruguay	156 9mm pistols 15 machine guns	Seized following receipt of information from Interpol. The weapons had been stolen in Poland.	12 / 1995	La Republica, 12 December, 1995
Venezuela	80,000 handguns	The U.S. suspended sales of handguns to Venezuelan gun dealers, concerned that many of the guns are ending up in the hands of narcotics gangs and guerrilla groups in Colombia. Licenses were issued for the sale of more than 80,000 handguns from the United States to dealers in Venezuela in 1998. Investigation by the Customs Service and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, concluded that there was a "good likelihood" that handguns licensed for sale in Venezuela were being diverted to Colombia.	1998	The New York Times, "U.S. Suspends Sale of Handguns to Venezuela ", Bonner, R, May 6 1999
Zambia	1200 AK47 assault rifles	Of around 1,200 weapons confiscated by Zambian security forces, 211 AK-47s were seized from people who obtained them from Angola in exchange for food.	1995-98	Xinhua, 15 May 1998
	Unspecified quantity and type	Zambia hosts one of the largest refugee populations in Africa. Some of these refugees (who have included criminal elements) have been known to have entered Zambia with weapons of all types.		International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999

Source: SAFER-Net at: <http://www.ryerson.ca/SAFER-Net>

APPENDIX 7

Working Paper

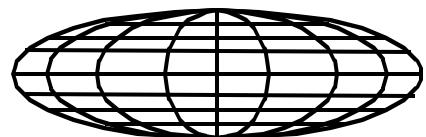
Firearms: Licit/Illicit Links

By Wendy Cukier, MA, MBA, DU (HC), LLD (HC), M.S.C

Professor of Justice Studies, Ryerson University
Room S354, 350 Victoria St., Toronto ON, M5B 2K3

Published as: *Vuurwapens: legale en illegale kanalen, Tijdschrift voor-Criminologie*, Ed. H. J. Frankie; E.S. de Wijs., Vol. 43, No. 1, 27-41, March, 2001

SAFER-Net
Small Arms/Firearms
Education and Research Network
www.ryerson.ca/SAFER-Net



SAFER-Net

Introduction

Illicit firearm trafficking has been identified as a problem in many countries around the world. Yet relatively little research has explored the problem on an international basis. Most of the work published to date has focused on firearms trafficking in particular countries, such as the United States, or “small arms” trafficking to conflict zones in violation of international agreements. Even the invaluable survey conducted by the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Commission reported countries’ perceptions of the problem illustrated with anecdotes, but provided little overall analysis.

This paper reviews the literature and the available empirical research in order to suggest a conceptual framework for understanding illicit trafficking of firearms in the international context. Discussed are the complex interactions between licit and illicit markets and between domestic and international flows. While there are significant links between illicit trafficking of firearms and drugs, there are also important distinctions. Lastly, approaches to tackling the problem in the context of situational crime prevention are outlined .

Scope: “Crime” versus “Conflict”

There has been extensive discussion about the definitions of “firearms” versus “small arms” and the definitions of “illicit trafficking”. For example, while “small arms” as defined by the UN Small Arms Expert Panel¹ are synonymous with “firearms”, the work of that group focused on preventing the proliferation of military weapons and reducing illicit state to state transfers in violation with international treaties and codes of conduct. In contrast, the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice² is focused on reducing the availability of firearms in the context of crime, particularly, transnational organized crime. These firearms include non-military weapons. Similarly, researchers examining conflict and researchers considering crime tend to run on parallel tracks even though conceptually, there is much overlap between the two areas of endeavor where firearms are concerned.^{3 4}. Indeed, while it has been estimated about 300,000 people per year are killed in “conflict” almost as many - 200,000 per year - are killed with firearms in murder, suicide and "accidents", and the firearm death rate in industrialized countries, nominally at "peace", is also high⁵. It has been argued that many of these deaths are preventable.

Certainly in many parts of the world, it is not possible to distinguish readily between conflict and violence and criminality. In addition, the networks used to distribute weapons to “criminals” are the same networks used to distribute weapons to “combatants”. We also know that given the nature of the market, there is diversion of “state” weapons to criminal enterprises as well as the diversion of weapons purchased by civilians to political conflicts. Consequently, for the purposes of understanding the global problem of illicit trafficking we have drawn on both the literature concerned with crime and the literature concerned with conflict. The suppliers of illicit weapons, for the most part, are concerned with profits rather than end use. Even where suppliers make political distinctions, for example providing weapons through covert operations to allies, there are few means of ensuring that they remain in the hands of the intended recipients.

Current Research

The research available on illicit trafficking of firearms in the international context is extremely limited and uneven. There is limited systematic collection or analysis of empirical data regarding the problem of illicit trafficking at the national level and even less at the international level. This presents major challenges.

Quantitative Studies

Many countries keep records of firearms seized by customs officials and of firearms reported lost or stolen. Some have undertaken systematic empirical analysis of large samples of firearms recovered in crime in a particular region, country or locality in an effort to trace them to their source. Some have conducted detailed analysis of the total firearms recovered in crime in an effort to understand the types of firearms and likely sources – for example, data from the United States, Canada, South Africa, Brazil and Japan are discussed below. In all these cases, however, the data are incomplete as only a small fraction of illegally trafficked or imported firearms are actually intercepted. Theft of firearms is also under-reported particularly in countries without mandatory reporting requirements or accountability mechanisms. Finally, many firearms used in crime are ever never recovered. Consequently, the data available for quantitative analysis are limited.⁶

International Surveys

The UN International Study on Firearm Regulation attempted to aggregate information from countries around the world based on official responses to a series of questions regarding the perceived seriousness of the problem of illicit trafficking. The study collected important data regarding the levels of firearm death, injury and crime. Included were analyses of firearm theft, perceptions of problems of illicit manufacture, importation and export, anecdotal reports as well as a detailed analysis of regulatory regimes. However, the study also underscored problems regarding availability and consistency of data.

INTERPOL also collects and aggregates data annually through the International Weapons and Explosives and Tracking System (IWETS). Participation is voluntary and the number of incidents reported is relatively low and the system does not provide much insight into overall levels of illicit trafficking but, like the UN Study, it provides a wealth of useful anecdotal information helpful to criminal investigations.

Qualitative Methods

Most of the existing studies of illicit trafficking are based on secondary literature or anecdotal information. While anecdotal evidence is valuable in the absence of wider empirical studies in revealing the mechanics of the illicit trade, it is often difficult to assess the validity of the claims or the relative importance of particular channels. Anecdotal information may be consistent with larger trends but sometimes it has proved to be at odds with the results of larger empirical studies^{7 8}:

Illicit Market Descriptions and Dynamics

The United Nations Study surveyed more than 60 countries and asked questions regarding illicit trafficking. Of the countries which responded 20 reported some incidence of illegal import of firearms and ammunition, while 7 reported none. None could actually provided estimates of the volume of illegal sales. 7 reported incidents of illegal export, 20 reported none. 12 reported

incidences of illegal manufacture of firearms compared to 31 that reported none. The record keeping and tracing capabilities of the respondents were uneven and many reported problems with the completeness and accuracy of records. Countries also reported penalties for illegal firearm dealings. Most included prison sentences. Some had capital punishment for arms trafficking. Over 30 countries cited anecdotal examples of the mechanisms used to supply illicit markets.⁹

The anecdotal evidence suggests that sources of illicit firearms vary considerably from region to region. For example, in Canada, the Caribbean and part of Latin America, firearms diverted from legal American domestic markets appear to be the principal problem. Guns in Japan come from the US and China but also from as far away as South Africa – one of the largest shipments of handguns seized by the Japanese Police Agency originated in South Africa. In Asia and parts of Europe, state supplies from the former Soviet Union appear to be the major problem both in ethnic conflict and in crime,¹⁰ but there are anecdotes concerning seizures of weapons from dealers in Austria, Finland, Estonia, Poland, the USA and elsewhere. The links are transnational with examples of firearms being recovered after being transferred through many points in distribution networks that span the world.¹¹

In Canada, studies undertaken in 1995 and 1997 in a number of jurisdictions revealed that the firearms most often recovered in crime were rifles and shotguns, most of which originated in domestic markets.¹² This finding contradicted previous claims, based on anecdotal studies, that handguns were most often used in crime.¹³ Canada historically has had very strict controls on handguns and only about 20% of the firearms recovered in crime are handguns. Of the handguns recovered in crime in major cities such as Toronto, it is estimated that over half originate in the US and are smuggled into Canada using many of the same mechanisms used to divert legal firearms to illegal markets in the US, particularly straw purchases and gun shows.

In Japan officials recover 1000 firearms each year most of which have been illegally imported. Typically, 30 per cent are said to originate in the United States and 21 per cent from China.¹⁴ They enter the country through a variety of channels.

In Brazil, there has also been some study of this problem. According to a recent analysis of guns recovered in Rio de Janeiro during 1994 -99, the vast majority (over 44,000, or 83 percent) were manufactured in Brazil. Just over one thousand guns (2.5 percent) were made in Argentina, and three thousand (6.7 percent) were manufactured in the United States.¹⁵ Paraguay is believed to be a major conduit for guns entering Brazil illegally from abroad.

In South Africa, efforts by the South African Police Service to track the supply of firearms recovered in crime are relatively recent, but they have tended to undermine claims based on anecdotal information regarding the prevalence of post-conflict military weapons.¹⁶ Detailed analysis of firearms recovered in crime has revealed that the bulk of the weapons used are actually handguns, many of them at one time legally owned. Military-style weapons, such as assault rifles, have represented a small proportion of guns used in crime.¹⁷

In Europe, we have found no comparable studies of illicit firearms trafficking but the anecdotal reports suggest a variety of sources and a variety of channels. Military and state weapons from the former Soviet Union and east block countries are seen as a particular problem. However,

there is also evidence that firearms are bought legally in one country (particularly those with less rigorous controls) and trafficked to others.

As these studies indicate, weapons frequently cross over from the realm of the legal to the illegal, and they frequently cross international borders.

Models of Illicit Firearm Markets

There has been very little work done at a conceptual level to examine the ways in which firearms are acquired or the interactions of international licit and illicit markets. Comparisons have been made between illicit drug and firearm markets largely because their users intersect and they may share distribution networks at the local and international level.¹⁸ These links have been documented by a number of researchers and law enforcement agencies¹⁹ Narcotics trafficking generates a demand for illegal arms both directly and develops infrastructure which is also used for gun trafficking. This international infrastructure, particularly the distribution and money laundering components can also be used to support the illicit gun trade.

The relaxation of border controls and the growing scale of transnational organized crime are also believed to have contributed to the expansion of the problem on a global basis.²⁰ Added to this is the globalization of finance which enables money used in illicit firearms deals to be deposited without question.²¹ Globalization of supply and criminal infrastructure has been the subject of much discussion.²² With the globalization of crime, it is suggested that there is a need for globalization of crime prevention strategies and, in particular the need for harmonization and information sharing.²³

The networks used to distribute illicit drugs, stolen goods and other illegal products are often the same ones used to distribute illegal guns. Often guns are traded for drugs and many of the same people who are involved in the illegal drug trade are also involved in the trade in illicit firearms. Such links are well known, and include shared transit routes, the use of weapons for protection by drug traffickers and funding gunrunning through the drug trade. The link between drugs, guns and illicit activities such as credit card fraud has been made in other contexts as well.²⁴ Williams cites a case in Italy where profits from drug sales were used by the Mafia to buy weapons that were subsequently sold to various Arab countries.²⁵

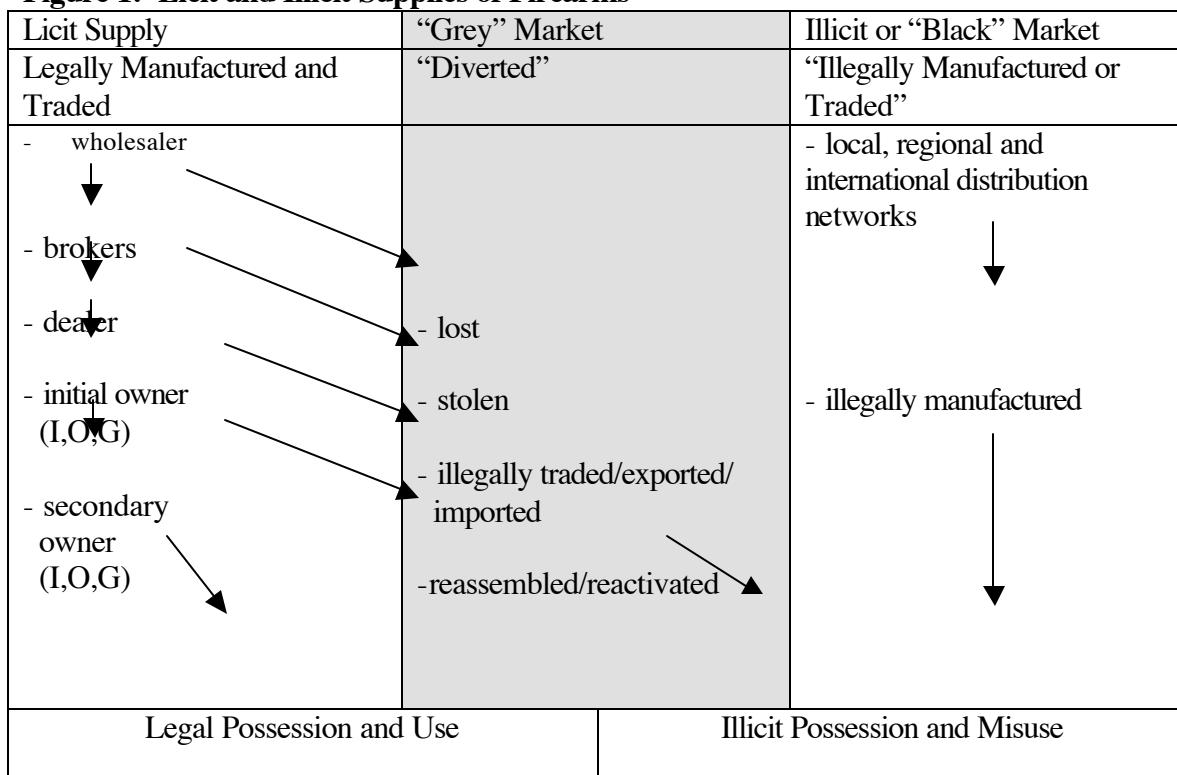
At the same time, there are significant differences. Drugs are generally illegal from the point of production to the point of consumption. In contrast, most firearms are manufactured legally, but become illegal by virtue of the conditions of their possession or misuse. The problem with guns is compounded as well by the fact that they are not consumed but are durable and are therefore resold and reused.²⁶ In addition, the firearms market has a dual structure including substantial legal government and consumer markets as well as illicit markets. There are recognized legitimate purposes for firearms in most countries which makes dealing with the problem of misuse particularly difficult and is why regulation is the principal approach. While other factors are important and the interplay between laws and values are complex, the level of firearm death tends to vary with levels of firearm ownership in high income and industrialized countries.²⁷ The fact that legal firearms are misused and that legal firearms "leak" to illegal markets through various channels is the principal fact underlying efforts to apply regulations to legal use.²⁸

The most extensive empirical research available on illicit firearm markets comes from the United States.²⁹. Given that the same mechanisms used to supply these markets also feed international markets these conceptual frameworks are relevant. In the United States there is evidence to suggest that leakage from legal to illegal markets is the principal source of firearms in criminal activity. Cook proposes that the distinction between licit and illicit gun sales is a function of the status of the buyer (entitled or proscribed), the status of the seller (licensed or unlicensed), the status of the weapon (legal or illegal model; legally acquired or stolen) and the details of the transaction (formal or informal). The primary and secondary markets are closely linked as buyers will choose based on the price and other aspects of the transaction. The primary market is attractive to buyers who want the latest models or warranties but regulations (fees, waiting periods, etc.) raise the effective price of primary markets and may either reduce some demand and shift demand to secondary markets. However, as demand for firearms in secondary markets increase, so do prices and this will, presumably, reduce casual demand. It follows that, given that secondary markets are fuelled from primary markets (e.g. through straw purchases) the greater the difficulty associated with getting firearms legally, the higher the secondary market price will be. This is confirmed by empirical evidence regarding the street prices of firearms. Where firearms are strictly regulated (for example in New York) the street prices for firearms are higher than in other markets. Consequently, dealers make profits buying in unregulated markets (such as Virginia) and selling in regulated markets such as New York City.³⁰

Thus the principal problem with illicit firearms occurs when legally possessed firearms are diverted to illegal markets or are used illegally. In addition, firearms tend to flow from unregulated markets to regulated markets on an international as well as a national basis. Diversion occurs through a variety of mechanisms but generally the evidence suggests that illegal firearms fall into three broad categories:

- legally held firearms that are misused by their lawful owner;
- legal firearms that are diverted - the ‘grey’ market - sold by legal owners to unauthorized individuals, illegally sold, stolen or diverted through other means and
- illegally manufactured and distributed firearms.

Figure 1: Licit and Illicit Supplies of Firearms³¹



I- individuals O- organisations G - governments

Illegally manufactured and reactivated firearms

In general, illegally manufactured firearms are a small proportion of the problem but they are a problem in some contexts. For example, in South Africa, of the firearms seized by the South African Police Service in 1998 approximately 15 percent were home made.³² In some cases, the illegal or unauthorised manufacture of weapons is facilitated by the use of components that have been imported or stolen. The domestic manufacture and assembly of firearms from imported parts, for example, is cited as a major source of illicit weapons in Australia. A related problem is posed by the reactivation of firearms that were legally owned at one time but that have been deactivated because of a change in laws.³³ For example, in Great Britain, more than 70 deactivated Mac 10 machine pistols were imported from the US and reactivated by a dealer³⁴.

Illegal Sales by Legal Dealers

Most countries have some regulation on firearms sales but because of their durability, firearms, whether for state or civilian markets, are sold and resold several times. At each point in the distribution chain there are opportunities for diversion. Sometimes firearms are sold illegally by licensed dealers. For example, in the United States, there is considerable evidence that a small proportion of legal dealers supply a large proportion of guns to juveniles and adults otherwise prohibited from making legal gun purchases. More than half of the weapons submitted by local and state police to the BATF for tracing originated with less than one half of one percent of the United States' 180,000 licensed dealers.³⁵ In some cases, dishonest firearms dealers have engaged in legal firearms trade while diverting some of their firearms to illicit markets. Several cases of this type have been identified by major police investigations such as Operation

ABONAR in the United Kingdom.³⁶ Anecdotal information abounds for example, in one case 40 rifles were sold by a Swiss dealer to Yugoslavian citizens (in violation of Swiss law) who, it is believed, intended to sell them to Albania³⁷. This of course is only the tip of the iceberg.

Resale

Firearms that are bought legally and then sold or given to a second owner are a problem in many countries, particularly in those which do not regulate resale or secondary markets such as gun shows. Within the United States, ‘straw purchases’ where a gun is purchased legally and sold illegally is the principal means used to move guns from states with lax controls to states with stricter controls. It is estimated that there are approximately 200,000,000 firearms legally in the hands of civilians in the United States. In comparison, the 21 countries reporting legal gun ownership in the UN study owned a total of 50,000,000 firearms between them. A study of guns recovered in crime revealed that one-quarter of all weapons that came from outside the state in which they were recovered came from Georgia, South Carolina and Texas, all states with relatively loose controls.³⁸ The same mechanisms are used to supply firearms to illegal markets in Canada³⁹ and Mexico.⁴⁰ Gun shows, which are largely unregulated, have proved to be a major source of illicit guns to international illegal markets. For example, an individual was arrested having purchased a consignment of 30 Lorcin pistols at gun shows in Miami and Dallas. The weapons were destined for Romania.⁴¹ Anecdotal evidence suggests that the same principles apply elsewhere: South Africa has been a source of handguns for destinations as far away as Japan. In one example, 205 pistols were recovered in Austria en route to Rotterdam via Germany⁴². In another case, a firearm dealer in Vienna gave 43 pistols to a gunsmith in Carinthia, Austria who intended to sell them to a Yugoslav citizen.⁴³

Theft

Governments participating in the United Nation’s International Study on Firearms Regulations reported more than 100,000 firearms lost or stolen annually. According to the UN Study, the United States reported more than 12,000 stolen guns during a nine-month period to September 1996. However other sources have estimated that the number could be as high as half a million.⁴⁴ South Africa reported nearly 17,500 guns stolen annually to the UN study. More recent studies indicate that the figure is at least twice this.⁴⁵ Stolen guns travel globally. In Uruguay, for example, officials recovered 156 9mm pistols and 15 machine guns that had been stolen in Poland⁴⁶.

Diversion from State Sources

State-owned firearms leak into illicit markets through theft, corruption or other forms of diversion. In Australia, military personnel falsified records to conceal the theft of firearms from national stockpiles.⁴⁷ Police in South Africa have reported more than 14,000 firearms lost or stolen in South Africa.⁴⁸ A group of Russian servicemen responsible for guarding weapons stockpiles were tried in 1997 for illegal sales.⁴⁹ Over 3000 firearms recovered in crime or surrendered in amnesties to the Metropolitan Toronto Police Service in Canada were illegally sold by officers and civilians working in the unit.⁵⁰

Illegal Importation – concealment and false declarations

The main mechanisms for illegal weapons from one country to another are concealment, false declaration and falsification of documents and mail order. The networks for smuggling guns are diffuse and range from individuals concealing a few guns in their car to large-scale commercial

operations.⁵¹ Similarly, a major consignment of parts for M2 automatic rifles originating in Vietnam and destined for Mexico was found in a sealed container in San Diego falsely labeled as ‘hand tools and strap hangers’.⁵² Another example of concealment involved an Austrian hiding in a truck transporting automobiles. The truck was apprehended at the Russian border with 3 Uzi submachine guns, 4 Browning pistols and 3,000 rounds of ammunition. It had passed three customs checkpoints before the smuggler was discovered⁵³. Corrupt officials have also been implicated in smuggling activities. In Estonia, an official is believed to have falsified paperwork for 1,310 handguns and pump action shotguns purchased from Finland. The weapons were sold illegally and 800 are still missing⁵⁴. In another case, a Finnish official granted a gun shop dealer owned by an acquaintance a permit to import 25,000 AK 47s and 40,000 handguns from Poland and Austria. The weapons disappeared although several have been recovered in crime.⁵⁵ Mail is another means of illegal importation and one that is often difficult to detect. For example Polish customs officials confiscated weapons sent by post from Canada and the US and destined, allegedly, for criminal gangs.⁵⁶

Measures to reduce illicit trafficking

Overview

There are no simple solutions to complex problems. Public health researchers have focused considerable attention on ways to prevent firearm violence. Models of injury prevention which suggest prevention strategies begin with a detailed analysis of the problem in order to understand the contributing factors and focusing efforts on breaking the chain at its weakest link. The factors that create the demand for illicit firearms must be addressed. Primary prevention includes social development approaches to crime prevention and strategies aimed at changing the “culture of violence”⁵⁷. In addition, scholars maintain that until there are fundamental structural changes in weapons industries and cultural values, measures to reduce the misuse and illicit trade in firearms will be limited.⁵⁸

However, while addressing root causes is undeniably important, public health focuses also on the vector/vehicle of injury, here the instrument - the weapon. According to these models, firearms do not in themselves always cause violence. However, regardless of the context - crime, conflict, domestic assault, suicide - firearms increase the severity of violence, the number of victims and the potential for children to become killers.⁵⁹ This is consistent with notions of situational crime prevention that suggests that by limiting access to “facilitators” one can reduce the occurrence and lethality of certain types of crime.⁶⁰ Finally, while there is evidence of deterrent effects is mixed at best, emphasis on increased enforcement may be seen as deterring some behaviours by increasing the “cost” of illegal firearms possession or trafficking by increasing the risk of apprehension⁶¹. Ultimately, designing effective measures to counter illicit trafficking is hampered by the lack of empirical data and detailed analysis. Intervention strategies will become more effective when research in this area is expanded and improved.

Most initiatives that have been proposed are aimed at reducing the availability of illicit firearms and aiding in the enforcement of laws against illicit trafficking. From a theoretical standpoint, the notion is that by reducing the availability of illicit firearms, we will reduce certain types of criminal activity and reduce the lethality of violent encounters. It also assumes that improved enforcement will both remove incentives and deter criminal behaviour by increasing the certainty of apprehension. Just as there has been limited research on the extent of the problem of illicit

trafficking, there has been little evaluation of the effects of various measures. Improved data collection and sharing would assist in benchmarking and evaluation.

Measures aimed at reducing illicit trafficking include:

- domestic firearm regulations
- improved transparency on state transfers
- import/export/transit controls
- amnesties and buybacks
- support for data collection, sharing and enforcement

Domestic Firearm Regulations

Given the links between licit and illicit firearms markets, there are also links between domestic regulations and the ease with which firearms can be diverted. Many studies and official sources have emphasized the need for rigorous domestic legislation in order to reduce the diversion of firearms to illegal markets. Currently the initial sale and resale of firearms is a matter of domestic legislation and varies considerably from country to country. Most countries control the sale of firearms – typically restricting sale to licensed individuals. The 1997 Resolution of the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Commission recommended that countries that have not already done so should introduce regulations to ensure licensing, safe storage and tracking of firearms⁶². Most countries in the world have firearms legislation with these common elements but there are also key differences. Countries such as the US, South Africa and Switzerland only regulate initial sales while others require all transfers to be conducted by authorized dealers.

Some restrict the number of firearms an individual may own. Others require proof of legitimate need. In addition, the rigour of licensing requirements varies considerably.

A number of nations are continuing to strengthen their domestic controls. For example, many American states have introduced one gun a month laws and federal legislation to require stricter controls over Federal Firearms Licensees has increased controls and record keeping requirements for dealers. South Africa is in the process of introducing legislation to reduce the number of firearms an individual can own and to increase accountability for firearms. Canada is in the process of implementing legislation that attempts to increase the accountability of firearm owners through licensing and registration. In 1996, China introduced legislation that prohibits buying, selling and transporting of firearms without official permission and imposed the death penalty for the illegal sale of firearms.⁶³ Poland and Great Britain recently strengthened their domestic regulations and both Hungary and France are in the process of introducing stronger laws.

Not only are there links between levels of gun ownership and rates of firearms death,⁶⁴ but anecdotal evidence would seem to suggest that countries which have higher rates of gun ownership, less rigorous controls, and higher rates of gun death are also often sources of illicit firearms for international markets. This warrants further investigation.

Tracking State to State Transfers

Given the problems of leakage from state owned firearms stocks, there are a wide range of proposals for improving transparency on state to state transfers of firearms.⁶⁵ While these are typically aimed at reducing illicit flows to conflict zones they would also, presumably, help stem the flows to other markets. The European Union Program for Combating and Preventing Illicit

Trafficking in Conventional Arms adopted in 1997 provides a framework for EU action in the following areas: (a) To prevent and combat illicit trafficking in arms from and through EU; (b) To assist other countries in preventing and combating illicit arms trafficking; and (c) To assist countries in post-conflict situations.

Import/Export/Transfer Controls

The Organisation of American States (OAS) Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, adopted in November 1997, is aimed at developing harmonized measures for monitoring and controlling the international movement of firearms in an effort to reduce illicit trafficking. It calls for a reciprocal system of import, export and in transit authorizations for legal transfers and the marking of firearms both at manufacture and again at import for better identification and tracing⁶⁶. As of March 2000, only 10 of the 35 countries that signed the convention have actually ratified this agreement. The United Nations currently has an initiative underway that includes many of the same elements. The Revised Draft Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime is under negotiation. The proposed system will require countries to provide authorization to one another before allowing commercial shipments of firearms to leave, enter or move across their territory. By improving the tracking of legal firearms, these measures are intended to reduce the opportunities for diversion, to improve enforcement of laws against illicit trafficking and help deter criminal activity⁶⁷.

Marking

Both domestic and international efforts to regulate firearms and reduce illicit trafficking and misuse rest on the ability to track individual firearms. Firearm manufacturers often serve both commercial and military markets⁶⁸ and so the issue of marking is of interest to both those concerned with preventing crime and those focused on preventing the proliferation of small arms in the context of conflict. Marking requirements are included in both the UN and OAS Conventions.

Firearm Amnesties, Buybacks and Collection Programs

Firearm amnesties, buybacks and collection programs have been used to remove surplus or illicit firearms from circulation with mixed success. In the case of Great Britain and Australia, these have accompanied changes in the law which made certain weapons illegal after a given point in time, offered compensation to those who surrendered weapons and imposed severe penalties on those who retained the weapons. In these cases the buy backs required a significant investment but also yielded large quantities of firearms - over 500,000 in the case of Australia. While many agree that removing illegal and unneeded firearms from circulation is desirable, research suggests that the impact of various weapons collections programs, buybacks and amnesties on the supply of illicit firearms has been uneven at best. The factors affecting their effectiveness have been the subject of much discussion.^{69 70}

Enforcement and Capacity Building

The experience of the BATF in the United States and INTERPOL suggests that detailed analysis of date has proved invaluable to criminal investigations and to identifying "hot spots". Improved exchange of information among police agencies is considered critical to addressing the problem on an international level. Increase information sharing between intelligence, customs, police and

other law enforcement agencies and / or information exchange regarding sensitive end users. Cooperation between intelligence and enforcement agencies in countries of source, destination and transit can better monitor and counter the activities of traffickers, suspect brokers and potential unlawful end users. However, many countries simply lack the capacity to effectively enforce the law. To this end, capacity building is critical if such efforts are to succeed.⁷¹

Conclusion

Given the enormity of the problem of illicit trafficking in firearms, both from the perspective of crime and conflict, it is surprising that there has been so little research on its dimensions and effects. One of the major challenges in understanding the problem, quite apart from the limited availability of empirical evidence, results from the inherent complexity, diversity and political sensitivity of the issue in many contexts. This paper illustrates that there is much to be learned about the problem of illicit trafficking. The dynamics of the problem, the types of firearms, and the sources of firearms vary considerably from region to region. At the same time, there is enough empirical and anecdotal evidence to draw some broad conclusions. First, while firearms trafficking and drug trafficking share common distribution networks and are both forms of currency, there are significant differences. The vast majority of firearms recovered in crime were at one time legally owned. Consequently, the interplay between licit and illicit markets coupled with the durability of firearms and uneven national regulatory standards results in very different market dynamics. This interplay also illustrates the need for multi-faceted intervention strategies. Finally, while effective crime prevention rests on addressing root causes of violence – the demand for weapons, if you will – there are also opportunities to reduce the lethality of violence by restricting access to firearms. The research to date, while limited, does suggest some potential intervention points but clearly, more research is required.

Wendy Cukier is Associate Director, Academic of Information Technology Management and a Professor of Justice Studies at Ryerson Polytechnic University, Toronto.

1-416-979-5000 x.6740

1-416-979-5249 (fax)

wcukier@acs.ryerson.ca

- 1 United Nations, Expert Panel on Small Arms, New York, UN, 1997.
- 2 United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Criminal Justice Reform and Strengthening of Legal Institutions: Measures to Regulate Firearms, Vienna, April 1998a.
- 3 Wendy Cukier, Firearms/Small arms; Finding Common Ground, Canadian Foreign Policy, 6 (1)1998a.
- 4 United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Criminal Justice Reform and Strengthening of Legal Institutions and Measures to Regulate Firearms, Resolution L. 19., Vienna, May 9, 1997 stated that the uncontrolled availability of firearms is "Not only fueling conflicts but exacerbating violence and criminality."
- 5 W. Cukier, op. cit. 1998a
- 6 For a thorough discussion of the limitations of data sources see the United Nations, International Study on Firearm Regulation , New York, UN, 1998b.
- 7 G. Khatchik and P. Leandro, 'Connecting Weapons with Violence: The South American Experience', Institute for Security Studies, monograph No. 25, 1998.
- 8 Robert Chetty, ed. Firearm Use and Distribution in South Africa, National Crime Prevention Council, 2000.
- 9 United Nations, 1998b.
- 10 See for example, Stephen Handelman, Comrade Criminal: Russia's New Mafia. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1995.
- 11 Shannon McCaffrey, 'Report Traces Gun Sales,' Associated Press, 20 December 1999.
- 12 Smuggling Work Group, 'Report of the Smuggling Work Group,' Justice Canada, 1995; Daniel Antonowicz Consulting, 'Firearms Recovered by Police: A Multi-Site Study,' Justice Canada, July 1997.
- 13 John Thompson, Misfire. Toronto, McKenzie Institute, 1995.
- 14 United Nations, International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999.
- 15 Survey conducted by the Brazilian Institute of Higher Studies on Religion (ISER), released on 2 August 1999.
- 16 M. Chachua, 'Operations Rachel 1996-1999,' Institute for Security Studies, monograph No. 38, 1999. See also BASIC, Illicit Traffic in Small Arms, July 1999 " The easy availability of AK-47s in Mozambique and Angola has flooded South Africa with illicit automatic weapons and made South Africa one of the largest centres of illicit light weapons trafficking. In turn, more and more crimes in South Africa involve the threat or use of a firearm. By January 1999, there was an average of 30 gun related deaths per day in South Africa." However, the empirical evidence presented by Chetty, op.cit, shows the vast majority of the criminal acts and murders in South Africa involve handguns not AK-47s.
- 17 Robert Chetty, ed., op cit.,
- 18 M.I. Klare, M.J and D.A. Andersen. Scourge of Guns: The Diffusion of Small Arms and Light Weapons in Latin America, Washington DC, Arms Sales Monitoring Project, Federation of American Scientists, August 1996
- 19 Daniel Garcia-Peria Jaramillo, Linkages between Drugs and Illicit Arms Trafficking: Issues of Current Concern to Colombia, 1998 the drugs/gun link has also been identified as a major problem in South Africa. See Ryan.T. Drugs, Violence and Governability in the Future South Africa, Crime and Policing Policy Project, Institute for Security Studies, Institute for Security Studies, Occasional Paper No. 22, 1997.
- 20 See for example Ruth Jamieson, Nigel South and Ian Taylor, Economic Liberalisation and Cross-Border Crime: the North American Free Trade Area and Canada's Border with the US. London: Institute for Social Research of the University of Salford, 1997 and Christina Eigel, Internal Security in an Open Market: The European Union Addresses the Need for Community Gun Control. Boston College International & Comparative Law Review XVIII, no. 2: 1995.
- 21 P. Williams. Drugs and Guns, Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, January 1999
- 22 P. Williams, Transnational Organized Crime and International Security: A Global Assessment, Society Under Siege, Crime Violence and Illegal Weapons, Halfway House, ISS, 1998. R. T. Naylor, Loose Cannons: Covert Commerce and Underground finance in the modern Arms Black Market, Crime Law and Social Change, 22, 1995
- 23 W. Cukier, "Marking Tracing and Tracking: the Role of information in controlling the misuse of firearms", American Society of Criminology, Toronto, November, 1999.
- 24 See for example, Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, Annual Meeting 1999.
- 25 P. Williams, op.cit.
- 26 W. Cukier, op. cit., 1998a
- 27 W. Cukier, Firearm Regulation: Canada in the International Context, Chronic Diseases in Canada, April, 1998b and M. Killias, International correlations between gun ownership and rates of homicide and suicide. Can Med Ass Journal 1993; 148(10):1721-1725
- 28 R.T. Naylor, The Rise of the Modern Arms Black Market and the Fall of Supply Side Controls, in Virginia Gamba ed. Society under Seige: Crime, Violence and Illegal Weapons, Cape Town, ISS, 1997 and R.T. Naylor, Loose Cannons: Covert Commerce and Underground Finance in the Modern Arms Black Market. Crime, Law & Social Change 22, 1995.
- 29 Philip J. Cook, Stephanie Molliconi and Thomas B. Cole. Regulating Gun Markets. The Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology 86, no. 1: 59-91, 1995.
- 30 Cook, Philip and James Leitzel, Perversity, Futility and Jeopardy: An Economic Analysis of the Attack on Gun Control, In Law and Contemporary Problems, 59 (1) 1996
- 31 W. Cukier, op. cit., 1998a
- 32 Robert Chetty, op. cit.
- 33 United Nations, International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999.
- 34 "Gangland armourer facing long jail term" The Times, January 21, 1999.
- 35 Pierce, Glenn L., LeBaron Briggs, and David Carlson. The Identification of Patterns in Firearms Trafficking: Implications for Focused Enforcement Strategies: A Report to the United States Department of Treasury, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Northeastern University.

- 36 Michael Hallowes, Directorate of Intelligence, Operation ABONAR, London, Scotland Yard, 1999.
- 37 FBIS Daily Report, Arms Smugglers Exposed, May 20, 1999.
- 38 Natalie Goldring, Domestic Laws and International Controls, in Jeffrey Boutwell and Michael Klare, eds., *Light Weapons and Civil Conflict: Controlling the Tools of Violence* Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 1999.
- 39 Geoffrey A. Francis, Illicit Firearms in Canada: Sources, Smuggling and Trends, RCMP Gazette, Vol. 57, No. 2 , 1995.
- 40 See for example, Lora Lumpe, The US Arms Both Sides of Mexico's Drug War, Covert Action Quarterly, Vol. 61, Summer 1998; Philip Cook and Thomas Cole, Strategic Thinking About Gun Markets and Violence, Journal of the American Medical Association, Vol.273, No. 22, June 1996.
- 41 United Nations, International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
- 42 FBIS Daily Report, Ring of Arms Dealers Busted more than 180 Arms Seized, April 1998.
- 43 United Nations International Study on Firearm Regulation, Database, 1999
- 44 Cook et. al, 1995 The FBI compiles national data only on the value of the firearms reported to the police department, not the number of firearms. Depending on the assumptions regarding the average value of guns, the Police Foundation estimated that in 1991 between 300,000 and 600,000 guns were stolen. According to the National Crime Victimization Study the average number of incidents in which at least one gun was stolen during the period 1987-1992 was 340,700 per year.
- 45 United Nations, International Study on Firearm Regulation database, August, 1999. See also K. McKenzie, Domestic Gun Control Policy in Ten SADC Countries, Gun Free South Africa, September 1999. This study states that 29,694 guns were reported lost or stolen in 1998. According to a press statement by the then Safety and Security deputy minister Joe Matthews "From 1 January 1996 to November 10 1997 about 50,585 legally possessed firearms had been stolen or lost. Of these, 12,218 are state owned. Only 27,401 have, in the same period, been recovered," The Star, Johannesburg 5 Dec 97.
- 46 La Republica, 12 December 1995.
- 47 Adam Graycar, op.cit.
- 48 Robert Chetty, op. cit. See also 200,000 State-owned Firearms Missing, ANC Daily News Briefing, 23 November 1999.
- 49 FBIS Daily Report, 24 January,1997.
- 50 John Duncanson and Jim Rankin, Officer is jailed in gun scandal, Toronto Star, 15 April 1998; John Duncanson and Jim Rankin, 3000 guns go "missing" from police, Toronto Star, 10 September 1997.
- 51 United Nations, International Study on Firearms Regulation database, August 1999
- 52 San Diego Union-Tribune, 14 March 1997.
- 53 UN, 1999, op.cit.
- 54 FBIS Report, "Illegal Sales at Estonian Headquarters of Arms Purchased in Finland, September 26, 1995.
- 55 ibid
- 56 FBIS Daily Report, November 4, 1996.
- 57 W. Cukier, op.cit., 1998a
- 58 R.T, Naylor, The Rise of the Modern Arms Black Market and the Fall of Supply Side Controls, in Virginia Gamba ed. Society under Seige: Crime, Violence and Illegal Weapons, Cape Town, ISS, 1997.
- 59 A.L. Kellermann, R. K. Lee, J. A. Mercy and J. Banton, The Epidemiologic Basis For The Prevention Of Firearm Injuries. Annu Rev Public Health 1991; 12:1740
- 60 R. V. Clarke (ed.) *Situational Crime Prevention: Successful Case Studies*, Albany, NY: Harrow and Heston, 1992.
- 61 Steven Lab, *Crime Prevention: Approaches, Practices and Evaluations*, Cincinnati, Andersen Publishing, 1997.
- 62 United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, op.cit.1997.
- 63 UK, China act on gun plague, Mercury (Hobart) 13, May 1996
- 64 W. Cukier, op.cit. 1998 and ICRC, Arms Availability and the Situation of Civilians in Armed Conflict, Geneva, 1999.
- 65 EU Council of Ministers working group, COARM, 1997; Eavis.P., and Benson, W., 1999;
- 66 Organization of American States. Model Regulations for the Control of the International Movement of Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition. September 15, 1997
- 67 BASIC, Combating Illicit Light Weapons Trafficking: Developments and Opportunities, 1998
- 68 Canada, DFAIT, Marking Small Arms: An Examination of Methodologies, February, 1999.
- 69 S. Meek, Buy or Barter: History and Prospects for Voluntary Weapons Collection Programs, for Institute for Security Studies, Monograph No 22 March 1998
- 70 R. T. Naylor, op. cit.
- 71 Pericles Gasparini Alves and Diana Belinda Cipollone, Curbing Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms and Sensitive Technologies: An Action-Oriented Agenda,United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR),Geneva, March 1998