

## **Country report from SPAS, Sweden for the ENAAT-meeting May 24-25 1997 Stockholm**

During 1996 the responsibility for the Swedish arms trade was handed over from the Government to a separate central authority. All export permits, except one, was decided by this authority, which always has promoted a more liberal export policy.

All parliamentary parties got a seat in the Export Control Council, which has the function of checking and giving advise in every controversial export case. The Green party nominated Henrik Westander from SPAS as their representative in the Council, but this was not accepted by the Government. The Party leader of the Greens was appointed instead.

The Swedish arms export decreased slightly during 1996 but there was a major decrease in the value of the approved export permits, from 6 billions in -95 to 2,8 billions in -96. Although, this is probably not a trend break.

The Swedish Government has decided to more actively promote export of major conventional weapon systems, such as JAS, YS-2000 ( a warship based on stealth technology) and submarines.

There is an on-going lobbying (mainly from the industry) on the Government and the central authorities to make them open up for export of weapons, and not only other military equipment, to the Gulfstates in the Middle East.

During 1996 SPAS has been running a campaign against arms trade mainly targeting Indonesia, India, Pakistan and some countries in the Middle East.

### **Indonesia**

On the 18th of April 1996 the Government approved the export of three ship guns to Indonesia. SPAS focused on the deal and gathered some organisations supporting the campaign against the deal. We also managed to get five out of seven parliamentary parties to stand up for a much more far-reaching demand, namely to stop all export of military equipment to Indonesia, even ammunition and spare parts. Unfortunately one of the parties (the Centre party) failed the demand when the case came up at the Council's meeting on the 20th of March this year. In some weeks the executive organ of the Centre Party will decide on a position. The campaign has been successful in terms of putting the Government under pressure. For now further export of ship guns is out of the question.

### **India and Pakistan**

On the 18th of April 1996, the same day as for the approval of the Indonesia-export, the Government decided to pursue a more restrictive policy on arms export to India and Pakistan. Those countries have, looking back the history, been major customers of Swedish military equipment, but the policy has become more restrictive. Although follow-on deliveries, radar systems and so on, were approved.

## **The Middle East**

During -95 and -96 follow-on deliveries were approved for Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and United Arab Emirate. Two companies have got permissions to "go ahead" with deals concerning other military equipment, which means for example radar system and armoured vehicles. This was a backlash for our campaign as the former Minister of Foreign Affairs stopped these kind of deals in autumn 1994.

SPAS reached two more successes

In November 1995 we revealed that Kockums agent in Bangkok had paid money to one of the parties in the Thai electioneering, this was to improve the chances of getting an submarine order. In Thailand this caused tumult. Even the former Minister of Internal Affairs said he had been offered money by Kockums. This affair led to the cancellation of the whole plan on buying new submarines.

In May 1996 SPAS revealed that Bofors had quoted spare parts intended for weapons which have been smuggled to the Middle East in the past. The Inspector of Military Equipment came to rescue Bofors and decided that the spare parts were "not to be classified as military equipment". This saved Bofors from a new trial. But the new Minister of Foreign Affairs probably had a need of showing a restrictive position, and promised a change in the law to make deals like this impossible in the future. This law change is now on its way. From now on Bofors will not be allowed to supply service or "civil" components to smuggled weapons.