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## PROBLEMS OF WAR AND SOCIAL SITUATION IN THE WORLD

Peace and security on the one hand and socio-economic development on the other are closely related and interdependent. All that can be annihilated by war along with all efforts to promote social progress and peace. World War II was our generation's personal experience. According to various sources, 6 years of war cost the lives of 35 million people, others estimate 50 million or sometimes even 60 million victims, of both, military actions and accompanying terror. It was a great collapse of social order and a disaster hard to comprehend. The war created a general, deep desire to safeguard the world's security and an outcry for human rights, social justice, decent standards of living, and the abolishment of all forms of colonialism. Some of these universal aims of all humanity were achieved only to ceratin extent during the post-war period. Progress is particularly conspicious in the process of social changes.

The post-war period, however, was not devoid of local or regional conflicts or unrest. There have been 150 more or less serious conflicts which claimed 16 to 20 million lives since the end of the 1939—1945 war. Not only soldiers, but also civilians were killed. Table 1 presents the location of conflicts and the loss of lives. The data in the table does not comprise the victims of civil wars. The total loss of lives in all identified conflicts is approximate — it is greater than the number of civilians and soldiers killed.

Table 1

Location of conflicts	Number of conflicts	Loss of lives (in thousands)			
		Civilians	Soldiers	Total	
Far East	27	4,501	3,406	9,185	
Africa	30	1,970	1,388	3,552	
South Asia	10	1,874	574	2,449	
Middle East	17	264	132	547	
Latin America	16	305	133	451	
Europe	3			175	
Total	103	8,914	5,643	16,358	

The estimated number of conflicts and the loss of lives in the years 1945-1983

Source: R. L. Sivard, World Military and Social Expenditures 1983, Washington D.C. 1983.

The majority of the wars mentioned in Table 1 were caused by old, unsolved conflicts. After 1945 most of them occurred in the poor countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. Although some industrial countries were to a certain extent involved in many of the conflicts, it was the territories of military actions that were directly affected.

Putting aside considerations about the causes of conflicts in the years 1945—1983, one can say that each of them brought about disturbances in social order and the deterioration of peoples' welfare on both sides engaged in the conflict.

It is estimated that about 29 million people were in active military service in 1983 (International..., 1984). This does not include reserves and the staff of para-military organisations and services. Global military expenditure in the particular countries is enormous, but it is exceedingly difficult to present its figures.

In 1984 the UN Secretariat experts on "All Aspects of the Conventional Arms and Race and on Disarmament" reported on this problem in the following way:

"The calculation of the world military expenditure is of necessity imprecise due to such variables as differences in exchange rates, secrecy of information, problems on deciding how to allow for differences in the system and costing of military production and difficulties in how to allow for price changes in the civilian and military sections of economy" (General Assembly Resolution).

Helpful information in this respect comes from Stockholm International Peace Research Institute Yearbook 1984. It estimates total military expenditure in 1983 at 750—800 billion US dollars (1983 US dollar rate) (SIPRI 1984). In 1984 it was more than 800 billion dollars;  $80^{0}/_{0}$ of the sum was spent on conventional arms and forces.

The total of 800 billion US dollars means 130 dollars per every single man in the world. It often exceeds an average personal income in many developing countries.

Military expenditure in developed countries in the 1980s was higher than that on health service. In developing countries it was ten times the amount spent on health and three times the amount spent on education. A special example here is the fact that the cost of a new nuclear submarine equals the expenditure on education in 23 developing countries with 160 million school children (SIPRI 1984).

Most of the world's total military spending concentrated in 6 countries (5 of them are permament members of the Security Council plus the Federal Republic of Germany). The developing countries contribute  $25^{0}/_{0}$  of the world's total expenditure. According to SIPRI estimates, the developing countries participated in the military expenditure in 1984 in the following way: developing countries  $100^{0}/_{0}$ , South and East Asia  $45^{0}/_{0}$ , Middle East and Egipt  $35^{0}/_{0}$ , Latin America  $12^{0}/_{0}$ , Africa (excluding Egipt)  $8^{0}/_{0}$ . An important element in the escalating of military expenditure was a high cost of weapons and technology. The effects of high military expenditures show most in social and economic programmes but the burden is different in the particular countries.

A study outlining the world's social situation was published in 1984. It divides all countries into 4 groups with varied social situation according to 5 criteria: (1) the amount of protein consumed, (2) average life expectancy, (3) number of hospital beds per 10,000 inhabitants, (4) percentage of children with access to education, (5) number of radio sets per 1,000 inhabitants (Otok 1984). The study is complemented here with the data (for each group) on the average percentage of national product spent on armaments) (Sivard 1982). Table 2 includes the mean values of delimitation indices for four groups of countries and the whole world.

Table 2

Indies groups of	The amount of protein consumed in grams	Average life length in years	The number of hospital beds per 10,000 inh.	% of children with access to education	The number of radio sets per 1,000 inhabitants	% of GNP allocated on arma- ments
The world						
mean	69.82	55.52	41.70	64.69	195.99	4.0
Group 1	55.84	40.30	10.50	28.04	35.24	3.5
Group 2	56.36	48.53	20.85	60.78	91.14	4.3
Group 3	70.78	62.41	33.97	79.05	198.05	4.3
Group 4	96.48	70.48	94.96	87.63	504.84	4.0

The mean values of delimitation indices of the world social situation

Source: S. Otok, "Regional Differentiation of the World's Social Situation", Miscellanea Geographica, Watezawa 1984.

When discussing social situation in each group one should stress that all the countries in group 1 have their social situation indices below the world mean. In these countries life expectancy, medical care index and the percentage of children with access to education are the lowest. Still, many of them allocate considerable part of their income on armaments.

In group two the majority of social care indices are close to the world mean, only the medical care index (number of beds in hospitals per 10,000 inhabitants) is half the world mean; and yet the proportion of national income spent on armaments is higher than the world mean.

Group three includes countries where the social situation indices are close to or identical with the world mean. In most of them, however, the medical care index (number of hospital beds per 10,000 inhabitants) is not satisfactory. The percentage of national income spent on military purposes is higher than the world mean.

Group four comprises the countries where all indices are above the world mean. They are well developed and the social situation is good (Fig. 1). The amount of national income spent on armaments is equal to the world mean.

Detailed analysis of social situation in particular groups of countries leads to the conclusion that although many countries are poor and underdeveloped, huge sums of money are allocated for military purposes there, but not for eliminating poverty.

How to reverse the situation? It is not simple to do. Although the relation between disarmament and development is reverse, there is no international institution that would automatically transfer funds from armaments to social and economic needs of population. Many proposals of this kind were nevertheless discussed on the international forum. In 1973 a resolution calling for a single,  $10^{0}/_{0}$  reduction of military budgets by all the permanent members of the Security Council was passed by the United Nations. Money saved in this way should be allocated for social and economic development in developing countries. The resolution also appealed to other countries with high military and economic potential to join this project. A number of other proposals were registered at the 10th special General Assembly session on disarmament in 1978. Most of them concerned taxation of military budgets and allocating thus acquired sums for the United Nations to be used for promoting development mainly in those countries where the income per inhabitant was less than 200 US dollars. After a detailed discussion of various proposals and the study of "The Relationship between Disarmament and Development" the General Assembly authorized (resolution no 37/48, dated Dec. 9th, 1982) the UN Institute for Disarmament Research to analyse in cooperation with other international institutions the possibilities of implementation of the concept of international disarmament fund for promoting development. Not all the UN members approved of the resolution. Although there was no consensus as to the way of raising disarmament funds, the discussion on disarmament and development during the session of the Disarmament Commission in 1984 was generally considered significant. It was also generally agreed to accumulate disarmament funds and to use them for peaceful purposes.

Summing up, it is worth stressing that the extent of total militarisation is tremendous. At the beginning of the 1980s it was about  $6^{0}/_{0}$  the value of the world total gross product, nearly 50 million people were employed in military industry and services directly or indirectly connected with it, half a million research workers and engineers, i.e. ca  $20^{0}/_{0}$  of





ial situation according to S. Otok.

world's total employment in this group, were engaged in military research and the development of military technology.

Can this potential be used to alleviate regional disproportions in the social situation in the world?

## REFERENCES

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