

IOR 41/008/2001

MEDIA ADVISORY

Amnesty International, BASIC, International Alert, Oxfam and
Saferworld

AIRCREW EXPLAIN HOW GUNS GET TO WAR ZONES

EVENT: Press Briefing at Prep Com for the UN Conference on The
Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its
Aspects.

SPEAKERS:

- Brian Johnson-Thomas, an investigative journalist and war correspondent, who has specialised in this topic over the last decade.
- Captain Mike Selwood, a pilot who has made clandestine arms deliveries.
- Loadmaster Alan Maskell, a crew member who has also been involved in arms deliveries.
- Chair - Liz Clegg, Arms Trade Programme Co-ordinator, Saferworld.

LOCATION: Conference Room 5 at U.N Headquarters, New York

DATE AND TIME: Monday 26 March 2001, 1300 - 1500 hours

Governments and arms campaigners from all over the world will be gathering in New York from 19 – 30 March to prepare for the U.N conference on small arms in July. A key aim of the Conference is to set international standards for responsible arms transfers and to clamp down on the illicit trade in weapons that fuels war and cause widespread misery around the world.

One of the most contentious areas at the UN Conference is whether to establish international controls on arms brokers and traffickers. While the activities of arms brokers have received some media attention, we know less about the activities and process of those who actually deliver weapons and ammunition to conflict zones. Yet their activities are intrinsically vital to this illicit trade. The briefing will show why international action at the UN Conference to clamp down on this trade is vital.

To learn more we invite you to attend the meeting where a Briefing Pack will also be available which consists of:

- Copies of the actual documents used on some of their clandestine flights to war zones in Africa.
- Quotations from a further three aircrew – a pilot, flight engineer and loadmaster – who have made many similar clandestine flights including to Middle Eastern destinations.
- Documents detailing an illicit flight to South America.

Video and audio clips of these other people are available on request. Since it may be necessary to produce video clips to NTSC, PAL and SECAM standards it would be helpful if you could telephone Brian Johnson-Thomas on + 44 7719 833712 before Thursday 22 March and indicate your preferred format.

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