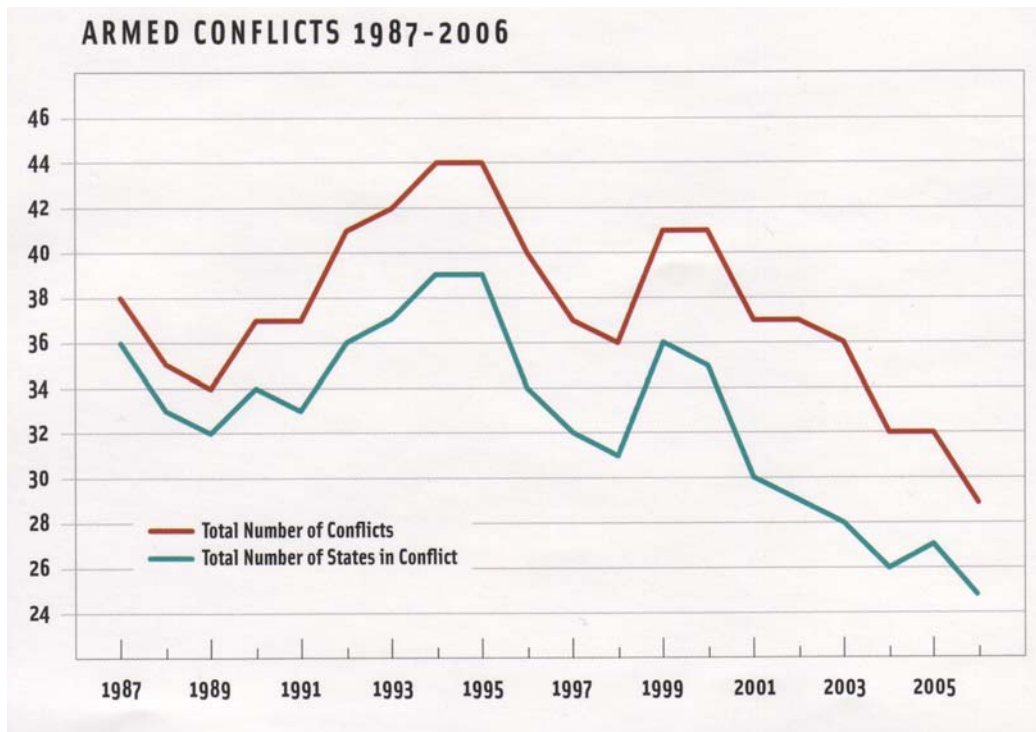


The Impact of Peacebuilding: Armed Conflicts in Decline



Although 29 armed conflicts raged during 2006, the total was the lowest since Project Ploughshares began monitoring armed conflicts in 1987. At 25, the number of states hosting conflict violence in 2006 was also the lowest of the 20-year period.

This drop in both the number of armed conflicts and the number of states at war continues the trend downward in annual conflict totals and follows a turbulent post-Cold War period that saw the total number of armed conflicts peak at 44 in 1995. Although extrapolation remains speculative, the general downward trend in armed conflicts since 1995 supports the value of increased multilateral efforts at peacemaking, peacekeeping, and especially peacebuilding to prevent the re-emergence of violent conflict. Despite the persistence of political, communal, and criminal violence across the globe, there is evidence that international efforts to reduce, end, and prevent armed conflicts are bearing fruit.

During the past decade (1997-2006) 35 armed conflicts ended, over two-thirds in Africa and Asia. Net gains have been realized in Asia where 12 conflicts have been resolved and 11 remain active, in Europe with three resolved and one still active, and the Middle East, which saw six conflicts resolved with three still active.

© 2007 by Project Ploughshares. All rights reserved.



Project Ploughshares
57 Erb Street West
Waterloo, Ontario, Canada N2L 6C2
tel (519) 888-6541 fax (519) 888-0018
www.ploughshares.ca