

ARMS FOR THE POOR

Discussion Guide

1. What was your overall response to this video? What struck you most? How did it make you feel?
2. What was your impression of the people in the video (the interviewees)? Which one(s) impressed you the most? Why?
3. Talk about the East Timor section: How would you judge the behavior of Ford and Kissinger? Why do you think they have never been held accountable for breaking the UN resolution and their own treaty with Indonesia (a treaty prohibiting the sales of any weapons that would be used for aggressive purposes)?
4. Professor Chung, the Korean theologian, says, “*in order to ban landmines in the world, we have to ban them in our hearts first.*” The Dalai Lama says much the same thing, at the end of the video, when he speaks about “*internal disarmament.*” What do you think they mean? Is this just poetic language or is it a practical reality? Do you think that there is an actual connection between how we live our lives and government policies?
5. During the Cold War, the United States justified the practice of selling arms to dictators because we wanted to keep those countries on our side during the cold war. Do you think that is a valid justification? Why? Why not? How is that “end justifying the means” philosophy working in today’s foreign policy?
6. Dr. Forbes quotes his teacher, Paul Tillich, about the poor: “Our *having* is not to be seen as unrelated to their *not having.*” What is your response to this statement? If you think that it’s true, what can be done about it?
7. Bishop Gumbleton says, “*No one has a right to anything beyond their need when others lack the barest necessity, and so when the poor demand some of these things, they are demanding what belongs to them.*” Do you believe that his statement is true? Why? Why not? If true, what are the implications? How might we address those in our own lives?
8. What is your response to the updated information at the end of the video? What actions can you take?

For more information about these issues visit:

Center For Defense Information: <http://www.cdi.org>

Federation of American Scientists: <http://www.fas.org>

Nuclear Policy Research Institute: <http://www.nuclearpolicy.org/>

Union of Concerned Scientists: <http://www.ucsusa.org/>

World Policy Institute: <http://www.worldpolicy.org/projects/arms/>

Council for a Livable World: <http://www.clw.org>

Global Issues: <http://globalissues.org>

Pax Christi USA: <http://www.paxchristiusa.org>