To permit comparison between the data on such deliveries of different weapons, SIPRI has developed a unique system to measure the volume of international transfers of major conventional weapons using a common unit, the trend-indicator value (TIV). The TIV is based on the known unit production costs of a core set of weapons and is intended to represent the transfer of military resources rather than the financial value of the transfer. SIPRI TIV figures do not represent sales prices for arms transfers. They are best used as the raw data for calculating trends in international arms transfers.
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