

The third advantage would be an improved economy. Most governments have difficulty keeping up with the rising expectations of their publics and, in some regions, nations are struggling for mere survival. Thus, regional associations could enable national governments to concentrate their efforts on improving their economies and, at the same time, make them less susceptible to outside political and military pressures.

Provision for a defence-police-verification force would be essential to every RAN treaty. Obviously, the emphasis and structure would differ with the individual region. But there would be one principle which would apply to all regions: they must neither create, nor be seen to create, military vacuums. Nor must they have a real or perceived aggressive posture.

But such a defence force should not follow the model of NATO or similar defence arrangements. NATO is designed not only to defend itself, but also to retaliate and, if it is deemed necessary, to make a pre-emptive attack. The line between defence and offence is very thin. By contrast, as indicated above, RANs' efforts would only be directed to non-offensive defence. A well-prepared defensive system, equipped with a large quantity of modern anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapons under the control of a well-disciplined and trained military force, would fulfill these needs. border regions and airports:

In addition, this force would carry out a police and verification function among the nations within the regional organization, in a manner agreed on by the participating nations. Such a force would contribute increased confidence through its internal verification function. Depending on the region's political stability, a standing militia force could be an additional contributing factor for maintaining regional security at reasonable costs.