

presence of Indian troops in Bangladesh was a source of concern when recognition of Bangladesh was considered. Viability or real independence has been overlooked in some cases when a State was anxious to recognize a new state for political purposes.

## **2. Effect on relations with mother state:**

The recognition of a seceding state can be considered a hostile act by the central authority and be condemned as intervention in the internal affairs of a country. Pakistan severed diplomatic relations with the first states (all from the Eastern Bloc) which recognized Bangladesh in 1972, but it could not afford to do so when larger and friendlier countries also granted recognition. When it became apparent that the UK, Australia and New Zealand would recognize Bangladesh, Pakistan withdrew instead from the Commonwealth as a form of protest (re-joining again in 1989).

## **3. Nature of the Bilateral relationships:**

The nature of the bilateral relationship with the "mother state" in the event of a messy divorce will be a relevant factor. If the relationship has been cordial or good, political considerations may argue for buying time pending a decision, and awaiting the decisions of other states. If the relationship is not particularly strong, recognition may be relatively unimportant, and timing becomes a judgment to be assessed mainly in terms of domestic constituencies. Canada's recognition of the Pinochet government in Chile in 1973, for example, was considered somewhat precipitous by many Canadians, even though the new regime had clearly satisfied legal criteria.

## **4. Views of allies, friends and neighbouring states:**

Consultations among like-minded countries are common before granting recognition, as states are generally reticent to be premature with recognition, or to do it alone or in bad company. The United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand tried to coordinate with many other countries the announcement of their recognition of Bangladesh. More recently, members of the European Community have been jointly weighing decisions on the recognition of Slovenia and Croatia. Neighbouring states are in a privileged position to offer insight, but at the same time their views could be biased by their own particular interests. Strategic and