

The purpose of this paper is to outline a concept of how regional security associations could not only function but would be sufficiently desirable to entice nations to join. The challenge before us now is to create a concept "to live by," one that is broad enough to be acceptable, flexible enough to allow for regional differences, yet unifying to a world that is on the verge of self destruction. The idea of a Regional Association of Nations is to provide just such a guiding concept.

History has never been static; there have always been General Comments of the time not changes that people and their political leaders have foreseen or desired. In our

time Given the undeniable decline of superpower hegemony, what will or can replace the leadership role of such once-great empires in an increasingly unstable world? The meteoric rise to power of some other nation? Or a sudden leap to "world power" status by the present United Nations? Neither alternative seems likely and neither is desirable. ay suddenly by an unexpected current. At the top of the list for the formation

of Because international security problems are frequently regional in character, the next stage in world political development should be a transition to a multiplicity of "regional communities" designed to achieve regional stability. The purpose of these communities, composed perhaps of countries with different ideological, military and economic interests would be to work towards stability within their regions. Not tied to any existing alliance, they would be non-aligned with respect to the superpowers. Each region's combined military force would be strong enough to defend the region from outside attack and to ensure peace among the nations of the region. As well, it would be structured for defence only. Economically, each region would strive for increased internal trade and a strong measure of economic self-reliance. In short, each Regional Association of Nations (RAN) would be set up to unify rather than divide.