

Events in Central America moved quickly after the Esquipulas II agreement in August 1987. More recently, pessimism has again been gaining ground as the peace process seemed to stall. The problem remains above all the relative lack of a real "will to peace" among key political actors within the region and outside it. If there is to be a resumption of the initiatives in favour of peace in the area, it will require convincing these key political actors that they have more to gain from peace than from continued war. The role of verification in the acceptance by all parties of a peace agreement is simply vital, as is now generally agreed among the five republics. This paper has shown what kind of verification might be possible and what difficulties it might encounter, always keeping in mind that discussing verification without a specific agreement to which to refer is not an easy task.

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## NOTES

1. Jozef Goldblat and Victor Millan, "Arms Control in Central America," *Arms Control*, VIII, 1, (May 1987), p. 78.
2. Canada, Department of External Affairs, "Verification in All Its Aspects," (1986), p. 3.
3. Canada, House of Commons Special Committee on the Peace Process in Central America, "Supporting the Five," (Ottawa, 1988), p. 2.
4. Liisa North, "Measures for Peace in Central America," (Ottawa, Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security, 1987), pp. 32-34.
5. Lieutenant-Colonel D.S. Ethell, "Central America Peacekeeping Observation Organization," (unpublished draft paper, Ottawa), p. 8. It should be emphasized that the author was responding in this draft to the need felt at the time to have an idea of what might be involved in supporting Esquipulas II.
6. See for example Maria Elena Matheus, "Juicio a Esquipulas II," and Rigoberto Cornejo, "¿ Balance del proceso de Esquipulas II: Apariencia o realidad?" both in *Análisis*, I, (January, 1988).
7. International Human Rights Law Group, "Guidelines for International Election Observing," (Washington, 1984).
8. Listed and discussed in Jack Child, ed., *Conflict in Central America*, (New York, St. Martin's Press, 1987).
9. Brian Mandell, "The Sinai Experience: Lessons in Multimethod Arms Control Verification and Risk Management," *Arms Control Verification Studies*, no. 3. (Ottawa, Department of External Affairs, 1987).