

It is unlikely that these three countries alone would have the wherewithal to provide for the financial and other resource costs entailed in a major verification regime. While the Federal Republic certainly has considerable financial resources on which to draw, it can hardly be expected to pay excessively for an activity far from its shores and from whose effects it will perhaps only marginally benefit. Canada would, wisely it is felt, be reluctant to be seen as the main pillar of a peacekeeping and verification regime in Central America which was expensive and which Washington saw as being opposed to United States vital interests. Spain has not the financial resources at this time to undertake what might seem a nearly open-ended commitment to supporting the peace process in Central America. Even all three acting jointly would possibly find the economic burden a great one when considered against the indirect benefits accruing to them. Further countries would be required to pay if the initiative were to bear fruit.

Likewise, troops, light fixed-wing aircraft or helicopters, and patrol vehicles would be needed in considerable numbers. West Germany has all of these but is currently prevented by its constitution from deploying them abroad. Spain has large armed forces with a reasonable number of aircraft and vehicles of the required type, but is itself in the process of switching its past internal security role over to a NATO defence role, and wishes to contribute its best formations to alliance priorities. Canada has forces much smaller than in the hey-day of peacekeeping and is already over-stretched in support of such efforts as well as its alliance commitments. Thus it would be with the greatest of difficulty that these three countries, acting alone, could provide the military resources necessary for such a complicated and wide-ranging verification and peacekeeping effort. Here again, help from elsewhere would be required.

Four other European countries have frequently been mentioned as potential sources of assistance with the military requirements of a verification and peacekeeping regime. These are Austria, Italy, Sweden and the Netherlands. Sweden has a great deal of peacekeeping experience and considerable equipment resources, and might well be willing to help. On the other hand, its recent withdrawal from the Cyprus peacekeeping force and its defence budget cuts perhaps augur ill for a Swedish role in Central America. Austria's forces have had less, but still some, peacekeeping experience. However, they are small and Vienna has so far shown little interest in the Central American crisis. Italy, while not having much experience in this type of operation, has large and well-equipped armed forces that could assist tremendously. While Rome has so far not been overly forthcoming, its interests in Central America are real (El Salvador is the number one destination for Italian foreign aid) and it might be willing to join a consortium of states acting together in the region, as might the Netherlands, whose forces would also be useful.

South American states have also been pointed out as likely candidates for such a role. Argentina, Brazil, Peru and Venezuela are the most frequently cited. During its years as a military dictatorship, Argentina's forces got a bad name in Central America and the Alfonsin government might well be interested in doing