

economic sector, but even more extensively in the military sector which was previously thought to be the sector most strongly opposed to any reduction of national sovereignty. In the Second World War, for instance, the military forces of the allied governments fought under common commanders. Recently, even further reductions of national sovereignty have taken place. NATO's commanders plan the structures and decide on arsenals for the military forces of all participating nations. In addition, most of these nations accept the stationing on their territories of soldiers from other nations. Thus, the acceptance by governments and their populations of a partial curtailment of national sovereignty has become common.

From this general model of a Regional Association of Nations, let us now turn to specific examples.

RAN ADAPTED FOR CENTRAL AMERICA

Creating a regional association in Central America may seem to be an impossible task. The enormous political differences between Nicaragua and its neighbours--Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala and Costa Rica--are well known and deeply rooted. However, recent events suggest that what these countries have in common may be stronger than what divides them. What is common is their language, their latin heritage and their poverty. And surprisingly, given the economic and military ties of some of these countries with the United States, they also have in common a resentment of American interference and a wish to arrange an accommodation with Nicaragua.³

³ A thorough analysis of Central America can be found in an article by Linda Robinson, "Peace in Central America," Foreign Affairs, Vol. 66, No. 3, 1977/1988.