

cannot be imposed on unwilling states by either the super-powers or international organizations. They must be the result of decisions made by the states involved. Otherwise, plans, however well intended, simply will not work.

GENERAL MODEL FOR A REGIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NATIONS (RAN)

Peace alliances between nations are not new. They can be traced far back in history. The Regional Association of Nations proposal attempts to avoid some basic weaknesses of previous alliances and, by so doing, hopes to make such regional associations more durable, more predictable and capable of a positive influence on the formation of a new world order.

There are many good reasons to join with the other nations of one's region. The first advantage would be improved national security with less cost for each participating nation. This would flow directly from the fact that the participating nations would integrate their defence forces, at the same time assuring others that national forces could not attack each other. The cost of modern weapons is skyrocketing and their operational reliability is uncertain. To keep up with a potential adversary, a nation must constantly acquire improved weapons systems which are costly and require ever-more-sophisticated and expensive servicing.

Secondly, not only would national security be improved but the chances of simmering conflicts between smaller and middle-sized nations drawing the superpowers into an escalating conflict would be greatly diminished. The creation of a RAN would greatly improve stability and predictability and, because of that, become an important factor for helping to lay the foundation for world peace.