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## Geography

**G**eography, both physical and political, will pose a major obstacle to the verification of a peace accord. Politically, some six borders pose current or potential concern to a verification regime. They include the very troublesome borders between Nicaragua and Honduras, Honduras and El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico, and even possibly Guatemala and El Salvador.

The territory of only those countries where insurgent groups are operating, covers some 400 000 km<sup>2</sup>. Large areas of El Salvador, particularly in the North, are to all intents and purposes governed by the FMLN and not San Salvador. The scope of the verification effort will be vast, even if one does not consider Guatemalan and Costa Rican extensions.

While the Guatemalan insurgents are currently active only in the inaccessible regions of the northern provinces, particularly Petén, the area involved is still very large indeed. And while the Costa Rican boundary with Nicaragua is quiet at the moment, no effective verification system could afford to leave it outside its area of effort.

Thus, an observer mission or peacekeeping force charged with verifying either of the sorts of agreement discussed above, would be dealing with unquestionably the largest and most diverse political and geographical context of any such organization ever established.