

Once established, collection zones could possibly be surrounded by demilitarized zones. Tensions might well continue at a high level and checking into complaints could continue to be an absolutely vital role of the peacekeeping force or observer mission there. Given the large size of such zones, and their likely location far from areas of population, they will pose special resource problems for those verifying peace accord provisions related to them.

On the arms trade provisions of an eventual accord, little need be said about verification since it would be relatively straightforward. This is not to say verification would be easy. There would be a requirement to maintain a ship and aircraft inspection capability that would be mobile (most Central American states have several ocean-going ports usually on both the Pacific and Atlantic coasts) and efficient. Again sophistication of weaponry would be the key. Large shipments of heavy equipment, armour for example, should be easy to discover. It is the smaller-scale arrival of highly sophisticated weaponry that could prove more difficult to detect, especially with the long-standing practice and experience had by many in delivering arms illegally to the region, and particularly to its isolated airfields. Sophisticated high-technology equipment might be able to assist with detection but this could depend on great power approval and backing.

United States concerns about the large amounts of military equipment and weapons sent to Nicaragua from Cuba and the Soviet Union would maintain this activity at an even more important level if Washington agrees to an eventual peace accord in the region. A major effort might therefore be deployed in this regard. However, the potential addition of U.S. resources to this arms trade verification tasking would more than make up for the extra workload it might eventually entail.