

military systems have never been static in the past and certainly are not today.

The validity of the proposal discussed in this paper should be seen in this context. The difficulties that will be faced in creating regional security organizations ought not to be underestimated. Nevertheless, in our interdependent global system, where accelerating and destabilizing changes in the economic, political and security dimensions can be foreseen, new ways to reduce the danger of conflict must be found and implemented.

The formation of Regional Associations of Nations, as proposed here, could help to produce "oases of stability" and thus reduce the risk of regional conflicts escalating to include superpower clashes. The RAN concept could be an important contributing factor that could improve the chances for maintaining peace. It would serve, in different ways, the self-interest of all nations, both those directly involved and those outside such regional associations. The RAN concept could be the first step leading towards the reduction of international tensions and the danger of open confrontation. Thus, it could become one important step in the transition to a world without war.

Canada and other middle powers could play an important role in exploring and advocating this type of regional security solution. By sponsoring the formation of neutral peace regions, Canada could exert a different kind of "force" in the world, one that would improve the chances for its own future as well as those of many other less-advantaged states.