

security considerations, for example in the case of an entity which has nuclear weapons on its soil, would warrant consultations with NATO allies.

5. The possible impact of recognition:

Some models of recognition are virtually problem-free. Free decisions to dissolve federations present no problems. Singapore's dissociation from the Malaysian Federation was followed by Canadian recognition two days later. The dissolution of the United Arab Republic did not even raise the issue of recognition (as it had been a union more in words than in fact), and the respective seats at the UN that Egypt and Syria had forfeited in favour of a single seat for the UAR were restored. Recognition becomes problematic in the case of break-away states, where there is discord between the two entities. In these cases, other states assess recognition in part on the likely impact of that act by one state or by the international community on:

- the dynamics within the state itself: would recognition precipitate civil strife or exacerbate political tensions (a possible Croatian scenario)?
- the dynamics within the state from which the new state is breaking away: would recognition complicate a delicate political situation, or would it be preferable to allow parties to work out differences free of signals of outside preference (the Soviet dilemma)?
- the dynamics of the immediate community of states: would there be a "spill-over" effect from one act of recognition, or would an act of recognition have an adverse impact on the immediate region (the southern Soviet republics)?

The argument that recognition decisions are sui generis is largely a product of these and similar assessments about the possible impact of recognition in various circumstances.

5. Views of Canadian domestic interest groups:

The reality of domestic politics is that key constituencies play a large part in the question of recognition. Canadians with family