

CHAPTER TWO

THE CONCEPT OF REGIONALISM

In the broad way to discuss about South Asian Association for Regional co-operation on SAARC, the most pivotal part which underpinnings the concept i.e., the concept of the Regionalism. The term regionalism is of comparatively recent origin and has not yet acquired any accepted and precise definition. Historically, it was first used in 1874 in the works of the Trovencal Poet de Berlueperussis but did not come into wide currency until the 1890's.(1)

Regionalism has been called a manifestation of "World Federalism" and an intermediate stage between administrative decentralization and federalism. It covers such multiple and diverse problems of modern political and cultural life as those of minorities, administrative decentralization, local self government and autonomy, the cult of homeland and earth and local patriotism. It is told that Regionalism is not intimately related to particularize and opponents make the charge that it leads to separatism.(2)

In a very general way, regionalism may be defined as a counter movement to any exaggerated on oppressive form of centralization. But it ought not, however, be considered solely from the view point of political control or Governmental administration.(3) Rather it can be said most conveniently that Regionalist problems arise only where there is a combination of two or more such functions as geographical isolation, independent historical traditions, racial, ethnic, Regionalism also must be distinguished from nationalism in that it recognizes, a higher national

unity and superior national interests transcending the attachment to the local region.(4)

It must be distinguished also from more sectionalism. It is not exclusively based on regional economic or class interests but involves certain ethnic factors, e.g., cultural, tradition or linguistic peculiarities, which provide a basis for what is often a sub-nationality.(5)

Be that as it may, two salient points emerged subsequently from the first ever regional meeting at the level of Foreign Secretaries in April 1981: (i) that Regional co-operation was necessary, desirable and beneficial; (ii) that there was need for moving with caution and making adequate preparations for such co-operation.(6) It was in pursuance of the recognition of these imperatives, that the principle of unanimity for decisions as also the desirability of scrupulous exclusion of all bilateral and contentious issues from future deliberations came to be emphasized. It was also recognized that regional co-operation, based as it would be on mutual trust and appreciation of the nationalist aspirations and concerns of individual countries, was not expected to become a substitute for bilateral and multilateral obligations of the countries concerned.(7)

To begin with five specific areas of beneficial regional co-operation were identified at this meeting: Agriculture, Rural Development, telecommunications, Meteorology and health and Population. Five study groups, Coordinated by Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, India and Nepal respectively, were instituted to make in depth studies in order to review the existing arrangements and assess the feasibility and scope for regional cooperation in the overall cost-benefit framework. (8) They were also charged with suggesting ways and means for establishing and strengthening cooperation by identifying specific

projects and spelling out appropriate modalities for implementing and monitoring the work programme. It was also agreed to set up a committee of the whole to consider the possibilities of identifying further areas of co-operation. (9)

In France, the vague desires for decentralization during the 1860s found expression in the then popular 'Nancy Program' which demanded that communal matters be regulated by the commune, regional affairs by the region and national by the nation. A sign of complete suggestion, in the Indian context the present "homeland" problem, according to Maurice Barres, was to be found in the local homeland, the 'region'. He also called for "regional assemblies" and local parliaments which would regulate the details of local administration. Clementel once said that "regionalism is the organization of democracy". But men whose ideal is quite removed from bourgeois democracy also subscribe to it. Again according to Gooch, regionalism can be "sentimental" and "administrative". (10)

1.2 Definition of Regionalism:

Scholars widely vary regarding the exact meaning of the concept of regionalism and they seldom agree upon a common definition of regionalism. Prof. Stoessinger has defined the concept of regionalism as "Regionalism may be defined as a grouping of three or more states whose goal is the formation of a distinct political entity. A regional arrangement is a voluntary association of sovereign states that have developed fairly elaborate organizational tools to forge among them such bonds of unity." He asserts that "a purely military alliance among nations that do not pursue the goal of political-building is not a regional arrangement." Van Leffens described regional arrangement as 'a voluntary association of



sovereign states within a certain area or having common interests in that area for joint purpose, which should not before an offensive nature in relations to that area.” “Broadly speaking”, says Padelford, “a regional arrangement in the sphere of international politics may be described as an association of states, based upon location in a given geographical area, for safeguarding or promotion of the participants. The terms of this association are fixed by the treaty or other agreement”. (11)

The draft text of the U.N. Charter was proposed by the Egyptian delegation at the San Francisco Conference in 1945 opined that regional arrangements as “organizations of a permanent nature grouping in a given geographical area several countries which, by reason of their proximity, community of interest or cultural, linguistic, historical or spiritual affinities, make themselves jointly responsible for the peaceful settlement of any disputes which may arise between them and for the maintenance of peace and security in their region, as well as for the safeguarding of their interests and the development of their economic and cultural relations.(12)

In this connection the definition of regionalism and regional arrangement points that it is not only the collaboration of military alliances but also more than that. For example, NATO is a military alliance but it has some other interest and purposed. Again, regionalism does not possess any geographical boundary because states whichever in the particular region may not be a member of the regional organization.(13) For example, Arab League, all the states of the Middle East are not the member of the said organization . Same wise the organization of American States, Canada is not the member of this organization though it is situated in the Western Hemisphere.(14) Again, Italy, Greece and Turkey are member of the NATO but they are not from

the North Atlantic Powers. On the other hand, there are some states of regional organization which are widely scattered over the globe. Prof. Jacob and Atherton include that "political rather than geographical ties have determined most groupings." According to them "Regional security organizations encompass states widely scattered over the globe. Some groups paradoxically do not include states that are geographically at the heart of the region. Consequently, these arrangements are more aptly described as instruments for selective rather than regional security. They may unite any combination of states in 'collective self-defence' regardless of geographical location." (15) However, the significance of geographical factor cannot be denied in regarding to the formation of regional organization. As Robert Rienow has viewed geography is an important factor in the formation of regional organizations in so far as it "foster a sense of cohesion, common vulnerability; common isolation, shared poverty of resources, etc. (16)

Schleicher holds: "Regionalism is the concept of organizing states and dependent areas on a regional basis". Automatically now the question arises about the meaning of a region.

While answering, Palmer and Perkins viewed, "Because of the frequent use of the term 'region' to mean areas smaller than states, it is important to emphasise that in international relations, a region is "invariably an area embracing the territories of three or more states. These states are bound together by ties of common interests as well as of geography. They are not necessarily contiguous or even in the same continent." In international relations it is not necessary to take the geographical boundary in regarding of a region. The concept of region may be termed as an area or military/political group or economic

grouping or transnational unit,. For defining a region any single criteria cannot exist.(17).

According to the Schleicher, “An international region consists of area of a number of countries which for at least one purpose distinguish it from other areas.”

From the above definitions we can come to the point that Regionalism is_ “the concept of organizing states of the area or states with similar needs or with common perceptions regarding issue or problem or goal, and with a view to secure measures for securing the desired objectives” An organization which is organized under the concept of Regionalism is called “Regional Organization” or “Regional Arrangement” or even “Regional Associator.” These three terms are generally taken as synonyms.(18)

1.3 REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS, REGIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND REGIONAL SYSTEM

Hass and Whiting said that “A regional system is a long term agreement between two or more states providing for common political, military or economic action in specific circumstances, provided the commitment extends to a defined area and specific states.” Some propounders do not agree with this definition because there are some regional organization which is a broad based system of regional co-operation of Western Europe like the Western European Regional System. Again there are some regional organisation which have a specific concept like NATO, ANZUS etc.(19)

In 1945 the Egyptian Delelgators viewed at the San Fransisco Conference that the meaning of Regional Arrangement is : “Organizations of permanent nature grouping in a given geographical

areas of several countries which, by reason of their proximity, community of interests or cultural, linguistic, historical, or spiritual affinities, make themselves jointly responsible for the peaceful settlement of any disputes which may arise between them and for the maintenance of peace and security in region, as, well as for the safeguarding of their interests and the development of their economic and cultural relation.” The former Secretary General of the UNO, scholar B.V.Boutros Ghali agree with the definition and said to review it in various places, notably to characterize it to a regional arrangement; “ “The final aim of forming a distinct political entity.”(20)

According to Dr. E.N.Van Kleffens Regional Organisation is, “A regional arrangement or pact is a voluntary association of sovereign states within a certain area or having common interests in that area for a joint purpose, which should not be of an offensive nature in relation to that area.” From this definition Palmer and Perkins viewed that the ‘arrangement’ and ‘pact’ should not be used as synonymously. Although a ‘pact’ is the usual means of bringing an “arrangement” into being, “pact” is a loose and more general term, it may relate to an understanding on a single, comparatively simple matter, requiring no administrative machinery of any kind. (21)A real regional arrangement, on the other hand it cannot exist without a fairly elaborate organization.

From this we can come to the point that the geographical factor is not only the necessary condition of Regionalism but it is the concept or organizing states on regional basis. This idea promotes the co-operation and collaboration among the member states. They bound themselves by geographic, cultural, economic, political interests. A regional arrangement may be of limited purpose or multi purpose organization. Each organization runs through fair way. Prof. Normal Hill hyptonize the

term “limited international organization.” But as Schliecher viewed “It is difficult to change the accepted usage howsoever ambiguous.”(22)

1.4 CHARACTERISTICS OF REGIONAL ORGANISATION

The following have been pointed out as major characteristics of Regional Organisation by Normal J.Padelford in his article “Recent Developments in Regional Organisation”:-

1. Regional arrangements aim at the settlement of differences among the signatories.
2. They seek to bolster free institutions.
3. They are designed to build up continuous self-help.
4. They obligate the partners to come together for consultation under a threat.
5. They recognize that aggression against one of them is a danger to all of them.
6. They disown any intention of undermining or violating the Charter of the United Nations.

These characteristics of regional organizations basically attributes all those arrangements which are organized for securing regional security or security of member states. (23)

1.5 Causes for the Formation of the Regional Organisations

Mainly there are three reasons for the formation of regional organizations, namely security, economic assistance and political co-operation.

- (1) NATO, CENTO, SEATO, and WARSAW have been made for security reason and also to determined the disposition of armed

forces of the member states to conduct themselves in a particular way under set circumstances and for security purpose deprive the member states of independence of action in different matters by integrating their armed force.

- (2) A few organisation have been formed to promote economic interest by mutual economic assistance, collaboration of technological knowhow, etc and also restrained the freedom of member states to avoid duplication and waste and tried the total pooled resources are to be fully utilized. For example the organization are EC, CEMA, LAFTA etc.
- (3) Few organization for example OAS, OAU, the Arab League and British Common Wealth Nations are made for several purposes to promote political, economic, cultural and also military co-operation.(24)

1.6 CONCEPT OF REGIONAL ORGANISATION UNDER U.N. CHARTER

Chapter VII of the UN Charter strongly loyal to the Regional Organisation. According to the art. 52 of the charter: “ Nothing in the present charter precludes the existence of regional arrangements or agencies for dealing with such matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security as are appropriate for regional action, provided that such arrangements or agencies and their activities are consistent with the Purpose and Principles of the United Nations.”(25)

However, in this declaration there is not any limitation regarding the power of the Security Council on the settlement of disputes among states. According to the Art. 53 : “The Security Council shall, where appropriate, utilize such regional arrangements or agencies for

enforcement action under its authority. But no enforcement action shall be taken under regional arrangements or by regional agencies without the authorization of the Security Council, with the exception of measures against any enemy state.” Art 54 states: “The Security Council at all times is kept fully informed of activities undertaken or in contemplation under regional arrangements or by regional agencies for the maintenance of International peace and security.” These two articles make the relationship clear between the peace keeping role of the Security Council and regional arrangement. Other than these articles another articles of Chapter VII article no. 51 agree the right of each member individually and collectively Art. 51 declare that “the states do not require prior authorization of the Security Council. (26)

1.7 ROLE OF REGIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The regional arrangement was known by the U.N. Charter but there is not any definition of regional of regional arrangements or agencies. “It level, the whole question of their character and purposes, and of their exact relations with the united Nations,” viewed Palmer and Perkins, very much up in the air”. (27)

I. Arms of International Peace and Security:-

The supports of regional arrangements insist that these devices are wholly consistent with the United Nation Charter and that these are necessary steps in regional or collective self-defense. The Charter specifically recognizes the right of nations to take action of this sort until and unless the United Nations is able to assert itself effectively in the maintenance of peace. As against such a defence of the regional arrangement, the critics hold that these involve the danger of increasing international rivalry. “There is real danger that they will develop into military alliances against some country or countries (As happened

in 1950s and 60s), that they will provoke counter measures that they will increase international tensions and thereby accentuate the very evils they are presumably designed to prevent." According to Leland M. Goodrich, "It must be clearly recognized, however, that the world organization is not being strengthened by the multiplication and tightening of these regional security arrangements."(28)

II. United Nation and Regional Arrangements

The inability of the United Nations to act as an effective peace keeping agency at international level has encouraged many states to joint regional arrangements. Carlos Romulo of Philippines has proposed: "The U.N. is dying because member states are more and mere taking the great political issues outside the framework of the organization." Whereas Art 103 of the U.N. (28) Charter states that in the event of conflict between the obligations of the members of the United Nations under the present Charter and their obligations under any other international agreement, their obligations under the present Charter shall prevail, "yet in actual practice the members of regional security arrangements have often ignored the wishes of the United Nations in favour of the dictates of their regional arrangement."(29)

III. Negation of Regional Military Arrangement

Further, the bipolar politics and cold war situation had given strength to over and above the United Nation and the spirit of internationalism that it manifests. Regionalism often paralyzed the U.N. According to Edger S. Funds "In the name of regional arrangements, the U.N. has been placed in a position of inferiority, so that now the link between the regional arrangements and the world organization exists at the practical pleasure of the former." The regional security arrangements have failed to help the United Nations in performing the function of maintaining international peace and security.(30)

The regional organization which is originated on the basis of security is definitely a harmful. The organizations like NATO, SEATO, WARSAW pact etc. are sources of tension not of peace, security and stability. WARSAW PACT is over but NATO still continuing. However, some other regional organization like ASEAN, EC, OAU etc. brings the strength for the upliftment of international co-operation, collaboration and development. However, some regional organization has been functioned as an important instrument for the conduct of international economic relation. (31)

1.8 SOME IMPORTANT REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS

NATO -1949

NATO - In 1949, on the month of April under the leadership of United States of America, North Atlantic Treaty was formed. First of all its membership were USA, Canada, Great Britain, French, Belgium, Netherlands Luxemburg, Italy, Norway, Denmark, Portugal and Iceland. At present it has 16 member states.

NATO was created with a three fold purpose: -

- (i) to serve as a deterrent against a soviet attack on Europe.
- (ii) to provide a security umbrella to the European countries with a view to help them proceed with their programmes for economic and military development; and
- (iii) to psychologically prepare the people, particularly of the USA for possible war with the (erstwhile) Soviet Union.

It's main purpose is to strengthen the defence of Europe. Hence, In September 2001, the NATO expressed its full support and extruded full help to the USA in it's war against terrorism (Taliban's Afghanistan). It

used its Article 5 for the first time and declaimed an act of aggression and war against all the member of NATO and the NATO would extend its full support and help to the US-led war against terrorism. (32)

SEATO – 1954

SEATO – The establishment of communist regime in China made the western very fearful and thus they decided to establish an anti communist regional security system in South East Asia. In 1954 on the month of September under the leadership of United States of America called a conference at Manila and there they declared this organization – SEATO. The signatories' members were United States of America, Britain, France, Pakistan, Thailand, Philippines, Australia and New Zealand. There is a reason behind this organization. After the Second World War just like powerful state France was bowed before the Vietnam and Guerrilla troops. (33) For this Britain and America were totally fearful. By this worried situation in 1954 on the month of July Daler proclamation was declared that to relief from the aggression in the South East Asian countries they should form a collective Security System. As a result SEATO was formed. Other than this America's himself had some aim behind this organization. America used to present its power in the world courtyard, spread out of capitalism. He wanted to control the internal affairs in South East Asia and foreign politics; most of its aim was fulfilled. America made a puppet in his hand the Pakistan, Thailand and Philippines. Those countries were always depending upon America. By this time America help those countries by supplying many aim and many ways. Hence, last of all America persuaded to move backward. Later France and Pakistan were with draw its membership from SEATO. United States of America was defeated before Vietnam – this mean SEATO was defeat. Gradually all the members were withdraw from it

and other China and America co-operation were developing – This organization was becoming needless and as a result in 1977 on the month of June this organization was terminated. (34)

CENTO – 1955

CENTO – The western Security interests in Middle East led to the signing of the Baghdad Pact in 1955, which in 1958 got transformed into CENTO. In 1955 Baghdad pact was signed between Turkey and Iraq and by it the two agreed to protect their security by joint measures. Later on Britain, Pakistan and Persia joined this pact. As such this pact came to be a west led move against soviet interest in Middle East.

However this pact proved counter productive in so far as it attracted opposition from several Arab countries Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia decided to take a neutral stand. The Anglo French Jewish attack on Suez in 1956 further made the environment unhealthy for the operation of the pact. The Soviet Union used the situation for building up anti-west feelings in this region and it was in a position to increase its influence over Egypt, Syria and Lebanon. (35)

This increase in Soviet influences in Middle East greatly worried the United States. As a counter move, America stepped up its military and economic aid to some of the countries of the region, but at the same time stopped giving aid to Egypt, Syria and Jordan. However, the pact received a set back, when Iraq after having undergone a coup, withdrew from the pact in 1959. Thereafter, it came to be known as CENTO – The Central Treaty Organization with Ankara as its head quarter.

It is a military alliance. It contains 6 Articles. It provides for mutual co-operation among member states in sphere of their security and defence.

However in 1979, this regional arrangement has become a lame duck.

WARSAW – 1955 – 1990

The Warsaw Treaty Organisation was established in 1955 by the Soviet Union in alliance with the East European Communist states as a counterpart of NATO. Its purpose was to safeguard the security of the member states (Albania, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, East Germany and Rumania) and the Soviet Union. (36)

In its provisions, the Warsaw Pact had many similarities with North Atlantic Treaty. It affirmed a faith in the U.N Charter, Pacific means, international peace and securing mutual help and aid, mutual consultation and joint action for defending the security of the member countries. Art 4 of this pact provided that “In the armed aggression in Europe against one or several states party to the treaty by a state or group of states, each state member of the treaty, in order to put into practice the right to individual or collective self defence, was to afford to the state or states which were the objects of such an aggression, immediate assistance, individually and in agreement with other states, party to the treaty with all mean which appeared necessary including the use of armed force.

However, Warsaw pact remained as the main unifying treaty for the Soviet bloc between 1955-90. The coming of Perestroika and Glasnost in the (erstwhile) U.S.S.R and its impact on Eastern European Communist states produced, during 1989-90 several revolutionary changes in all the (formers) communist countries of Europe. These changes made the Warsaw Pact obsolete in the new environment of changed international relation. In 1990, this pact was formally terminated.

ANZUS – 1951

Another link in the America network of alliances has been ANZUS. It was signed by Australia, New Zealand and the United States in 1951, for the purpose of co-ordination their efforts for collective defence and for the preservation of peace in the Pacific area. Under Art 4 of the Treaty, it was stated “Each party recognizes that an armed attack in the Pacific area on any one of the parties would be dangerous to its own peace and safety, and declares that it would set to meet the common danger in accordance with its constitutional processes. An armed attack on any one step shall be deemed as an attack upon all the states and hence shall be met by a collective force”. Through the ANZUS Pact, the USA wanted to meet the communist danger in the Pacific while Australia and New Zealand felt that it would check the possibility of attack from resurgent and rearmed Japan. (37)

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

The European Union, Known as the European Community until November 1993, is the most thorough going example of regional economic and political integration.

The EU began as three legally distinct but related organization: The European Coal and Steel Community, European Economic Community, sometimes referred to as the “common Market”. In 1965 the three institutions were merged to form what is known as the European Community. Its member was Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and United Kingdom. (38)

The Institution of the EC are (1) European Commission, (2) a Council of Minister, (3) parliament which includes the Assembly that

previously existed for the ECSC and (4) a court of Justice – again to be shared with the ECSC and Emotion.

The European Commission consists of seventeen members chosen for their general competence by member governments. The commissions are required to act independently in the interests of the community as a whole and are expressly forbidden to take any instructions from any national governments. (39)

The Council of Minister, composed of one member from each member state, meets in Brussels to take decision on the Commission's proposals, by qualified or by simple majority vote.

The European Parliament is mainly a deliberative body. Its members are chosen in election held in the member states every five year. The parliament can affect the work of the commission and council through consultative process.

Finally there is a court of Justice – Its general function is to “ensure the observance of law and justice in the interpretation and application of the EEC treaty.”(40)

VI. THE ARAB LEAGUE (1945)

The Arab League was formed in March 1945. The countries which were signed the pact for their creations were Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Yemen. Afterwards Algeria, Kuwait, Libya, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia also joined.

The chief objectives of the Arab League are mentioned in the pact are: “The strengthening of relations between the member states, the coordinator of their policies in order to achieve cooperation among them and to safeguard their independence and sovereignty.” The pact mainly

refers to the economic co-operation, communication, cultural affairs, nationality and related matter social affairs and health matters among the member states. (41)

The chief organ of the League is known as Majlis. Here all the member states are equally represented and it meets twice a year. Special session can be called on the request of at least two member states. The member tries to settle the dispute peacefully. For functioning the council a political committee and several other committee assist the League. (42)

The important function has been playing by the Arab League is shaping and sharing of political, social, economic, cultural etc. among the member states. It has secured the conclusion of several important economic, trade and cultural cooperation agreements among the member states. It always tries to secure the unity of the Arabs. The prove was seen in 1986 at the time of US attack Libya. However up to date fully success has not been achieved to unify the Arab world. (43)

VII. ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH EAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN 1967)

The ASEAN (The Association of South East Asian Nation) was formed in 1967. Its member states are Indonesia, Malaysia, Phillippines, Singapore and Thailand. Later in 1984, Brunei, in 1995 Vietnam, in 1997 Laos and Myanmar and in 1991 Cambodia joined th ASEAN India, Japan and China are the regional partner and dialogue partner of the ASEAN. India wants to be a full member of its.

The Asean is a non-military and non-security association. It gives stress on economic and cultural matter among the South Asian States. The chief objectives of this association are (i) to accelerate economic growth, cultural development and social progress in the region ; (ii) to promote

regional peace and stability ; (iii) to promote active collaboration and mutual assistance on matters of common interests in various fields ; (iv) to promote mutual cooperation and assistance in providing training and research facility to their people ; (v) to promote South East Asian studies ; (vi) to collaborate in the development of agriculture, trade and industries ; and (vii) to maintain close and beneficial cooperation with existing international and regional organizations with similar aims and purposes.(44)

ASEAN is a developing association. They give stress on three sectors – Human resources, infrastructure, and information technology and for this they always try to increase the co-operation among the ASEAN countries. Now a day it tries to increase co-operation with China, Japan and Republic of Korea. The ASEAN-ARF meet in July 2001 and there they decide to increase co-operation in the field of fighting trans-national crimes like piracy, terrorism, illegal migration, drug trafficking, cyber crime and others.

VIII. ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (OAU 1963)

Organisation of African Unity was formed on May, 1963. It is the most important organization in Africa. Its Charter was approved at the Addis Abba Conference. Generally its membership was 32 but now a days it was increased nearly to double. On May 26, 2001 the OAU decided to transform into African Union (AU)

The main objectives of the OAU are to promote the unity and integrity of the African States and to defend their sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence. Besides these the other objectives are eradicate of all form of colonialism from Africa and promotion of

international co-operation and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. (45)

The chief organ of the OAU is known as Assembly. It is like a parliament mean each member states have only one vote and every decision is finalized by two third majorities of votes. It meets once a year. The Assembly consists of Heads of States and Governments, the Council of Minister, the General Secretariat and the commission of Mediation.

The Commission on Mediation, Conciliation and Arbitration consists of 21 members who are appointed by the Assembly. This Commission tries to resolve the disputes among members of OAU through peaceful means. In addition to these institutions, OAU works through several special purpose commissions like, the Economic and Social Commission; Educational and Cultural Commission; Defence Commission; Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Commission; and Scientific, Technical and Research Commission.

OAU is indeed an African organization designed to promote the interests of its members. However, though its objectives have received full support from the African states, the organization has failed to act as a strong, united and efficient regional arrangement. In practice it has remained a loose association of sovereign states. But at the same time it must be accepted that OAU has done well to make the African states conscious of the need for African unity and solidarity against colonialism and for mutual development. It has also been successful in making the African states behave as a unit in the United Nations in respect of several key international issues and problems.

After its transformation into AU, this orgnaisation of 53 African states is expected to become more effective. It has now an African

Parliament and a Court of Justice. It has now the power to intervene in a member state in accordance with the decision of the Assembly of Heads of States of all the members. (46)

IX. ORGANISATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS)

In 1889 the Organisation of American States was formed. It is very active and influential regional arrangement because firstly, it is the oldest and one of the largest regional organizations in existence. Secondly, its structure is conferral and not supranational. Thirdly, the system has been developing and changing in accordance with the change in time. (47)

The main objectives of OAS are to uplift the co-operation and collaboration among the member states and to work for collective security of peace and stability in the region. According to the Charter: "An armed attack by any state against and American state shall be considered as and attack against all the American states and therefore, shall be met by all the states of OAS."

The principal organ of OAS are:-

- i. The Inter-American Conference.
- ii. The Treaty of Consultation of Minister of Foreign Affairs.
- iii. The Council.
- iv. The Pan American Union.
- v. The Specialised and Subsidiary Organisation.

The Inter American Conference is the main organ of OAS. It is like the Parliament. All the decision is taken by the majority vote. It consists of the representative of the member states. Its meeting was held once in five years by rotating the member states. (48)

The Treaty of Consultation of Minister of Foreign Affairs meets to solve the problem and for this they take the collective measure.

The Council consist the representatives who are appointed by the member states. Each state can send only one representative. Among them they elect one chairman and a vice Chairman. Its tenure is for one year. The council has extensive political, coordinating and supervisory functions. It is the central administrative and co-ordinating agency of the organization. (35)

The Pan American Union is the Secretariat of the OAS Secretary General has been chosen by the Inter American Conference. He is the director of the OAS.

There are three subsidiary agencies of the organization. They are:

- i. Inter American Economic and Social Council. It is a permanent council.
- ii. Inter-American Cultural Council and
- iii. Inter American Council of Jurists. These two are temporary council. It meets when the council calls the meeting.

Besides these there are several other specialized organizations which look after the specialised tasks. They are:-

- i. Inter American Institute of Agricultural Sciences,
- ii. Inter American Children Institute,
- iv. Inter American Commission of Women,
- v. Inter American Commission of Human Rights,
- vi. Inter American Indian Institute,

- vii. Pan American Health Organisation, and
- viii. Pan American Institute of Geography and History

From this point it can be said that it is a skillful regional arrangement which has helped to settle the mutual disputes peacefully. It is a strong device for the upliftment of the economic condition and security for the member. In its functioning the USA plays a dominant role.

IORARC

IORARC is the abbreviation of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation. It was originated on March 5, 1997 in the Mauritian capital of Port Louis. Here the member are from three continents consist of 14 states. The member states are India, Australia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Srilanka, Singapore, Oman, Yemen, Tanzania, Kenya, Mozambique, Madascar, South Africa and Mauritius. (49)

The organization is designed to act as a major step of Indian Ocean counties for stepping up regional cooperation and inter-continental trade. It was made to adopt an “evolutionary, non-intrusive, consensus-based Panchsheel” approach.

The opportunity of the action and work programme is too lighted on the field of economic cooperation which provides much scope to uplift the shared interest and reap mutual benefits. The specific areas are investment promotion, scientific and technological exchanges, tourism, development of infrastructure and human resources and movement of service provides on a non discriminatory basis.

10 major projects were associated by the IORARC. Out of which four projects such as Ocean Rim Business Centre and IOR-NET,

IORTRADE FAIR in India, an IOR chair in Indian Ocean Studies and Associate Fellows Programme were to be executed in India. India was also took part on maritime transport. The application for the membership of IOR-ARC was submitted by Pakistan, Bangladesh, Iran, Seychelles, Thailand, Egypt and France. (50)

The cases for IORARC, is unexceptionable. The Indian Ocean, historically a trading basin, remains the only one left out of an economic grouping like NAFTA, ASEAN and APEC. Also at a time when globalization and ocean-centric trade relations are becoming powerful determinants of regional growth, a rediscovery of the littoral community for its potential as an economic bloc was inevitable to the long run. There is little disagreement on the rationale for IORARC; the Indian Ocean offers a wealth of unique prospect, apart from tourism, which can be turned to good profit if the littorals remain firm in their resolve to stick to economic goals. (51)

BIST – EC

The title of this organization has been named according to the first letter of the member states i.e. Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand- Economic Co-operation. It was established on June 6, 1997. Its main objective is to develop the economic condition rapidly through trade, investment and industry, technology, human resource development, tourism, agriculture, energy and infrastructure and transportation. (52)

BIST-EC is formal mechanism, the first of its kind that is expected to serve as a bridge between South Asia and South-East Asia in the sphere of economy. At the inaugural ministerial meeting in Bangkok member-states of BIST-EC expressed their keenness for forgoing economic links and showing rapid tangible results.

For working smoothly the BIST-EC took initiative to set up a secretariat at Thailand. The seriousness of purpose with which the forum was launched was evident from the fact that both the United Nations economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) were involved in the official-level interaction on the eve of this meeting. ESCAP accepted a mandate from BIST-EC to undertake a feasibility study of specific projects that can be taken up on a sub regional basis. (53)

ASIA PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION (APEC)

The APEC is an organization which was formed in 1989. Mr. Bob Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister took initiative to form this organisation. At first 12 countries – the US, Australia, Canada, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Philippines, Indonesia, and Brunei joined this forum. At present it has 18 countries more 6 countries are from China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong joined in 1991, Mexico, and Papua New Guinea in 1993 and Chile in 1994.

The first summit was held in November 1993 at Seattle USA. On the second Summit in 1994 at Bogor (Indonesia) took initiative to work towards free trade and investment. They want to reach the goal by 2010. (54)

APEC decided to work towards free trade and investment. The more developed members were to reach the goal of free trade and investment by 2010 and the rest by 2020.

The annual summit of the trade and foreign ministers of the APEC was held in Manila and Subic Bay (Philippines) in November 1996. (55)The leaders agreed on a declaration that supported liberalizing the

market for information technology and committed them to an action plan for dismantling economic barriers.

The APEC members endorsed the declaration the framework of principle for economic co-operation and development in APEC. The ministers were asked to intensify work on sustainable growth and to report on their progress at the meeting in Vancouver in 1997. Further the relevant ministers were directed to work together with private sector representatives and national/international financial institution and develop a framework for involving the private sector in infrastructure provision. They were asked to work closely with the business sector in 1997 to examine ways of implementing recommendations presented by the APEC business advisory council to facilitate the movement of business people, enhance investment flows and strengthen investment protection and involve the private sector in infrastructure planning. Members are collectively conducting the fight against global terrorism; the APEC leaders not only endorsed globalization but also decided to keep the competition and co-operation in economic relation healthy and productive.

Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC)

OIC is an Islamic Organisation which was created in May 1971. All the member states are from Muslim nation. AT present it has 51 member including PLO.

The main organ of this organization is the Conference of Heads of states which meets every third year. The chief goal of this organization is to uplift the Islamic solidarity, cooperation in various areas of national development endeavour to eliminate racism, safeguard holy places and contribute to world peace.

On 11 November, 2000 the OIC called on all Muslim nations to sever all diplomatic and commercial relations with Israel, accusing the Barak Government of “serious war crimes” against innocent Palestinians. Egypt and Jordan, however, expressed reservations on the resolution passed by the Conference.

Group of Eight (G-8)

It is the organization of industrially developed countries. Firstly it was G-7 consisting the member countries are Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK and US. Later in 1998 Russia joined and it was renamed as G-8. The main objective of this organization is to promote the world economies and other issues. It meets periodically.

Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)

OPEC is the very important organization which was established in 1960. The chief goal of this organization is to control the production of oil and to set up the world's oil prices.

At present it has 11 member states. In January 1993, Ecuador move from this organization due to refuse to raise the production quota. Other member who are in this organization are- Algeria, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya and Indonesia.

There are several objectives for the formation of this organization. They are as follows:-

Firstly, mineral oil is used as devices in international field specifically in international politics. During the Suez crisis the oil refinery countries tried to go against the western countries by taking the oil as an instrument. But they were not success. Besides this failure the

main reason is though middle east countries produce oil but oil drawn out under the ground, its refinery, bring to the market for sale etc. are controlled by the capitalist countries. There is no possibility for the West Asian countries to get free from this.

Secondly, though West Asian countries cannot do the production, refining and putting to the market but of course they can do the production and can control over the pricing policy that means by controlling the pricing policy they wanted to earn more profit.

Thirdly, another objective is that member countries tried to raise their power in the price negotiable. MNC (Multi National Companies) of the industrially developed countries are controlled the drawn out of oil under the ground, refining, bringing to the market etc. In this context the owners have no power. MNC's are all in all. To curde down this the West Asian countries formed OPEC.

Fourthly, the member countries raise the demand that oil companies will make static in value level so that the customers cannot face any difficulty.

Lastly, in the declaration of the OPEC it also said that price was enlisted in such a way so that everyone should be benefited.

OPEC has brought great changes in the international economy and great benefits to its members but has not as yet developed a formula for cooperation among the members.

Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)

The Commonwealth of Independent States was formed in Minsk on 8 December 1991, upon the dismantling of the Soviet Union, by the leaders of Russia, Ukraine and Belarus formerly Byelorussia. With the

exception of Georgia and the Baltic States, other former Soviet constituent republics joined in Alma-Ata on 21 December. Georgia has since become a member. The creation of the CIS precipitated the final demise of the USSR. In all 12 of the 15 former Soviet republics are its members: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, Moldavia, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM)

The CARICOM was established in 1973 at Georgetown (Guyana) in order to promote cooperation among members in economic, health, education, culture, science and technology tax administration and coordination of foreign policy. The members of the organization are: Antigua & Barmuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent an Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago.

1.9 Impact and importance of Regional Organisations

It has been argued in certain quarters that the formation of regional organizations has greatly undermined the position of the United Nations and poses a serious threat to the existence of the international organizations. For example, Carlos Romulo of Philippines observed that the United Nations is dying because the states are more and more taking the great political issues outside the framework of the organization. Similarly, Edger S. Furniss also holds that "The United Nations has been placed in a position of inferiority, that now the links between the regional arrangements and the world organization exit at the practical pleasure of the former." However, the above view is not universally accepted and majority of the scholars hold it is erroneous. This erroneous view largely exists because of the assumption that the regional organizations are also

concerned with all the problems, which are the concern of the United Nations and operate at cross-purposes with the world body. Actually the regional organizations were as adjunct to the UN and are subordinate and harmonious with the United Nations. They have proved immensely useful in many ways. In the first place, it is proper and natural for the neighbours in any region to organize to meet their common problems. The members of regional organization are able to deal with their problems more effectively. Thus they relieve the United Nations of some burden of handling the local problem and concentrate its attention on global problems.

Secondly, the regional organizations are able to meet threat to peace more effectively by guaranteeing regional collective security. The UN Secretary-General Trygve Lie also admitted that the regional arrangements can be very useful element in the preservation of world peace, provided they recognise the supremacy of the Charter.

Thirdly, the regional organizations have played an important role in promoting social and economic co-operation among the member states and encourage them to rise above narrow nationalism. In this respect they constitute an important step towards universalism. As Prof. Palmer and Perkins have observed, "If international regionalism is properly developed and is closely integrated into a more universal framework. It can fill a real gap in the existing pattern of international society."

Finally, the regional organizations are also able to operate more freely without ideological obstruction. In short, we can say that regional organisations have played significant role in the international sphere without undermining the authority of the United Nations because by and large these organizations have accepted the overall authority of the United Nations.

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