

SECTION I INTRODUCTION

General

Characteristics of Developing Nations

GENERAL

This chapter outlines characteristics common to many developing nations. It identifies social, political, economic, and psychological factors that may contribute to political instability and lead to internal conflict. It discusses the weaknesses and environmental conditions in developing nations which outside governments or private groups may attempt to take advantage of for their own purposes.

In society, change is always taking place. Some may want change, while others may try to prevent it. Change may be violent or nonviolent. Although dealing effectively with the forces of change has always been a problem, today change comes more quickly, making the problem more complex.

Many developing nations are experiencing rapid economic and political change with limited or underdeveloped human and material resources and very limited modern technological knowledge.

CHARACTERISTICS OF DEVELOPING NATIONS

Each developing nation is unique. Each has its own history, culture, and goals combined in a way that produces problems different from those in any other nation. Although each nation is unique, certain conditions are common among developing nations.

Developing nations are those which are progressing beyond traditional societies and which are experiencing economic, social, military, political, technological, and psychological change. This change is normally characterized as modernization, growth, and national development. The national power of a developing nation is generally on the rise, but is far below that of a developed industrial nation.

Through this change, developing nations are discarding the traditions, values, institutions, and perceptions of a traditional society and replacing them with evolving new ones. This often results in anxiety and frustration which may create tension and disorder. Dissatisfied and ambitious individuals and organizations, often a