

Contadora efforts supported

Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark met with the ambassadors of the three Contadora countries with resident embassies in Ottawa to discuss the situation in Central America and ways and means of achieving a peaceful solution to the crisis in that region.

The meeting with Jaime Pinzon Lopez of Colombia, José Andres de Oteyza of Mexico and José Maria Machin of Venezuela was held on November 26.

Search for peace

The countries in the Contadora group are Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Panama. The group takes its name from the Panamanian island where the four began their peace initiative almost two years ago.

The group wants a peace plan requiring a negotiated, regional settlement to conflicts affecting the Central American countries of Nicaragua, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras and Guatemala.

Mr. Clark reaffirmed Canada's strong support for the Contadora initiative. He applauded their efforts to encourage a peaceful settlement of difficulties in Central America and expressed Canada's hope that discussions involving all Central American countries would continue at this crucial period to ensure a comprehensive and workable peace agreement.



Joe Clark

"Canada will continue to express both political and moral support to the peace process in Central America," said Mr. Clark. He added that Canada would be providing comments and advice on control and verification mechanisms, based on experience in peacekeeping operations.

Canada-USSR sports pact

The second five-year extension of the memorandum to foster friendship through sports was signed on November 15 by Canada's Minister for Fitness and Amateur Sport Otto Jelinek and Ambassador Alexei A. Rodionov, of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

The bilateral agreement, which will run through 1988, will ensure the participation of the USSR in Canada's first Winter Olympics to be held in Calgary, Alberta in 1988.

At the signing ceremony in Ottawa, Mr. Jelinek said that Soviet athletes "are

unquestionably among the very best and I know that the skills and experience exchanged in the course of competition under this agreement will be of great benefit to the athletes of both nations".

Many sports involved

In the first year of the new five-year extension of the agreement, originally signed in 1974, about 60 Canadian athletes and officials will travel to the USSR to participate in figure skating, wrestling, gymnastics, rhythmic gymnastics and archery competitions.

About 80 Soviet athletes and officials will visit Canada for competitions in hockey, figure skating and freestyle wrestling.

One of the first exchanges under the renewed bilateral agreement was announced recently by the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association. It involves a ten-game tour of Canada by a USSR midget hockey team from December 21 this year to January 5, 1985.

The Soviets will play two games each against all-star teams from the Atlantic region, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba-Saskatchewan and Alberta-British Columbia. The Soviets will play the Ontario all-stars at the Ottawa Civic Centre December 23.

"We hope to make it an on-going tour," Canadian Amateur Hockey Association technical director Dennis McDonald of Ottawa said. "By having a bilateral sports agreement, the mechanics should be smoother," he added.

In figure skating there is already a reciprocal agreement to send skaters to Skate Canada and Moscow Skate and coaching exchanges will be considered after the 1985 season in March.

Pearson Peace Award

Diplomat and educator George Ignatieff has been named recipient of the annual Pearson Peace Award this year. The chancellor of the University of Toronto, selected by a panel of jurists on the basis of lifetime contributions to the cause of peace, received the award, a gold medal, designed by a Toronto sculptress, November 26 from Governor General Jeanne Sauvé.

The Pearson Award was established in 1979 in honour of the late Prime Minister Lester Pearson. It is annually awarded to a Canadian who has contributed to Mr. Pearson's ideals of aiding developing countries, supporting mediation of disputes, aiding refugees and standing for peaceful changes in world affairs.

Last year's recipient was Rev. Georges Henri Levesque, a Dominican priest in Quebec, who was dean of the science faculty at Laval University and founded the University of Rwanda in Africa.

In his long diplomatic career, which began in 1940, the Russian-born Mr. Ignatieff, 70, has served in London and Washington. He has been ambassador to Yugoslavia, deputy high commissioner to Britain and has held a variety of UN posts, including ambassador to the UN between 1966 and 1969. He was also Canadian ambassador to the Disarmament Committee in Geneva from 1969 to 1971. Mr. Ignatieff was named Canada's disarmament ambassador in August but found his duties as chancellor at the University of Toronto prevented him from working full-time in the position.

Disarmament and arms control: concerns of group



The Consultative Group on Disarmament and Arms Control Affairs under the chairmanship of Canada's Ambassador for Disarmament Douglas Roche, met in Ottawa on November 9 and 10 to discuss ways in which Canada can use its influence in the nuclear age to help reverse the dangerous trends that threaten human existence. The consultative group, composed of interested Canadians — individuals, members of non-governmental organizations, peace associations and universities — was created in 1979 to give effect to recommendations of the first United Nations Special Session on Disarmament in 1978.