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CANADA PARTICIPATES IN UNITED NATIONS

RECONNAISSANCE TO CENTRAL AMERICA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today announced that Canadian experts will participate in a United Nations reconnaissance mission which will define the operational requirements for the UN Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA).

The reconnaissance mission will visit the area from September 3 to 23, 1989, and will then report its findings to the UN Secretary-General in New York.

The 18-member mission will be led by General Gomes of Brazil. The Canadian contingent will consist of Colonel Don Ethell, an expert in peacekeeping operations, and Lt. Col. Don Ferguson, a logistics specialist.

The reconnaissance mission is being sent in response to a request made on March 31, 1989, to the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Perez de Cuellar, by the five Central American Foreign Ministers.

The Foreign Ministers asked that the UN establish a military observer group which would be charged with on-site verification that the territory of one Central American state was not being used for attacks on another, and that aid and assistance to insurgent forces was terminated.

The March request for the reconnaissance mission is going forward now as a result of an accord reached among the Central American Presidents at Tela, Honduras, on August 7, 1989. The Honduran Government initially had some reservations concerning the mission.

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Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures

Canada