



# communiqué

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JOE CLARK REAFFIRMS CANADIAN SUPPORT  
FOR PEACE PROCESS IN CENTRAL AMERICA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, sent, on August 4, a special message to the Central American foreign ministers, expressing Canada's hope that the meeting of Central American Presidents planned for August 6-7 in Guatemala would go forward. Mr. Clark's message, addressed to the foreign ministers of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, conveyed Canada's support for the Costa Rican peace initiative and for Latin American efforts to achieve a negotiated settlement to the crisis in Central America. The text is as follows:

"I am writing to you at a critical moment in your region's history. Central America needs peace desperately. None of the multiple problems that beset the area can be adequately addressed while there is continuing conflict. No one is more aware of this fundamental truth than the leaders of the countries of Central America, as they prepare to meet in the days ahead to attempt to achieve a solution to the crisis.

The main item on the agenda will be the peace plan proposed by President Arias of Costa Rica. In your discussion of this proposal, the Government of Canada supports your efforts to find common ground and the necessary collective political will that is required if there is to be progress. We have no illusions that an agreement will be easily reached. However, we hope that the enormity of the challenge will not dissuade you from meeting and that this initiative can serve to revitalize the process of dialogue.

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