

force and bent on destroying the economic infrastructure of the country to achieve their political ends. We know that the guerrilla forces are obtaining support from abroad and we accept that the Government of El Salvador has the right to seek support from other countries, such as the United States, to defend itself. But in our view the solution in El Salvador cannot be based primarily on military responses.

Canada does not supply arms to any side in the conflict in El Salvador. We believe that if all countries followed a similar policy, the people of El Salvador would have a better chance of solving their problems. We take this position because we see a serious risk that the process of foreign involvement may lead to the very results which we and other western countries wish to see prevented -- political repression, protracted violence, and the victimization of the Salvadoran people in the extension of East-West antagonism.

By the same token, the escalation of violence offers no true hope to the Nicaraguan people nor to the other neighbouring countries who stand to suffer from the flow of violence across international borders.

The Government of Canada recognizes that Nicaragua is a sovereign state with the right to chose its form of government. At the same time we are dismayed by the increasing tendency toward authoritarianism. The threat to the welfare of the Nicaraguan people, and to the stability of the region, however