

SPECTRUM OF GLOBAL CONCERNS AND ASPIRATIONS AND THE DISCUSSIONS WITHIN THE VITAL FORA WHICH HAVE EMERGED IN THE HEMISPHERE OVER THE YEARS, SUCH AS THE RIO GROUP, THE SYSTEMA ECONOMICA LATINAMERICANA AND, OF COURSE, THIS ORGANIZATION. WE OBSERVE, BUT WE ALSO PARTICIPATE. WE CONSIDER MANY OF YOUR GOVERNMENTS AS KEY INTERLOCUTORS.

A MATTER OF VITAL INTEREST TO US IN THE REGION IS STABILITY. I WISH TO ASSURE YOU THAT CANADA IS VERY CONSCIOUS OF ITS POSITION AS A NATION OF THIS HEMISPHERE JUST AS WE ARE CONSCIOUS OF THE ROLE THAT WE CAN PLAY - AND INDEED WHICH WE ARE PLAYING - IN THE PROMOTION OF PEACE AND STABILITY AND PROSPERITY IN THE HEMISPHERE. JUST AS THE GOVERNMENTS REPRESENTED AROUND THIS TABLE, THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF CANADA HAVE VIEWED THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA WITH DEEP CONCERN. TRADITIONALLY CANADA HAD FEW TIES WITH THE REGION - LITTLE TRADE, MINIMAL INVESTMENT AND UNTIL A DECADE AGO, VERY LITTLE AID. IN THE 1980S, HOWEVER, THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT, INDEED SUCCESSIVE CANADIAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN COMMITTED, IN WHATEVER WAY POSSIBLE, TO ASSIST THE REGION ALONG THE DIFFICULT ROAD TO PEACE AND STABILITY.

CANADA LENT ITS FULL SUPPORT TO THE CONTADORA PROCESS SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN EARLY 1983. THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT OFFERED TO