

America) within the framework of SELA as a means of promoting international technical and financial cooperation to encourage the economic, social and structural development of Central America.

24. The President and the Prime Minister reiterated their concern over the increasing tension, the regional arms race, destabilizing activities and the foreign military presence in Central America. These factors undermine the efforts to find a political and peaceful solution to the problems of the region. Prime Minister Trudeau reconfirmed the conviction of the Canadian Government that Contadora remains the most appropriate international instrument for the resolution of the Central American crisis. President de la Madrid remarked favourably on the support which Canada has given to Contadora, the willingness of Canada to consult with Contadora on the modalities of verification and other initiatives related to the search for regional reconciliation. In this context, President de la Madrid noted the fact finding visit to Central America undertaken last month by the Canadian Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs. The President and the Prime Minister agreed that moral support for Contadora was not enough and that countries concerned with peace in the region should more concretely and actively urge peace and reconciliation upon those countries directly involved in the conflicts. They reaffirmed their view that the countries of Central America must have the opportunity to exercise self determination as well as the freedom to resolve their differences without political or military interference.

25. The Prime Minister explained his Peace Initiative to the President. The degree of support already garnered for the main objectives of his initiative