

On the second day of the summit, Canada was the only participant to not support a resolution on the Middle East which called for a recognition of "the national rights of the Palestinian people and notably its elementary and legitimate right to self-determination" as part of an international conference on the Middle East. Mr. Clark said that Canada had consistently supported the idea of an international Middle East peace conference, but had problems with the word "self-determination." "We think the use of that language can prejudice the results of a conference on the future of Palestinians," the Minister said (*Toronto Star*, September 3).

The summit leaders were told by Minister of External Relations Monique Landry on September 3 that Canada would spend an additional \$17 million over the following two years on aid and cooperation projects with summit participants: \$7 million would be added to the budget for communications and culture, \$5 million on improving agricultural training in Africa, \$1 million on energy conservation programs aimed at poor countries looking for alternatives to oil, and the remainder on various cooperative projects in francophone countries (*Ottawa Citizen*, September 4).

In his closing speech to the summit, Prime Minister

Brian Mulroney said, "The francophone summit is now recognized I think as a major forum of political and economic coordination, cooperation and consultation." French President François Mitterrand told a closing news conference, "Now we know that we are in existence," and cited new projects in agriculture, energy, culture, technology and language (*Ottawa Citizen*, September 5).

France, Canada and Quebec committed the largest amounts of the total \$73 million in projects agreed to at the summit. France committed a total of \$42 million for 1988, and Quebec \$4.7 million over the following two years. This compared favorably with the \$92-million budget of the much longer-established Commonwealth (*Le Devoir*, September 5).

At the conclusion of the 3-day summit, French President Mitterrand commented on the issue of human rights violations among members of *la francophonie* by saying that the issue had been raised in private sessions. "*La francophonie* is definitely raising the issue, but you must give it time. We're not here to organize a collective police force," Mr. Mitterrand said (*New York Times*, September 6).

Policy

Central America

Peace plan

On August 4 External Affairs Minister Joe Clark sent to Central American foreign ministers a message of support for their planned August 6 and 7 summit in Guatemala. "None of the multiple problems that beset the area can be adequately addressed while there is continuing conflict. . . . [Costa Rican] President Arias has made clear that his proposal falls within the spirit and framework of the Contadora process, which Canada has long supported as the most appropriate vehicle for a peaceful settlement in the region" (External Affairs communiqué, August 5).

The agreement reached in Guatemala — calling for a meeting of the Central American foreign ministers within fifteen days and for a ceasefire within ninety days of the August 7 meeting — received Mr. Clark's support. The Minister stated Canada's readiness "to provide technical advice based on its long peacekeeping experience to promote the peace process" (External Affairs communiqué, August 10). On August 16 Mr. Clark announced that he was sending officials of his Department to Central America to convey this message directly to the foreign ministers concerned. Canada was particularly willing to assist in the areas of verification and control, Mr. Clark said (External Affairs communiqué, August 16).

In mid-September members of a delegation of politicians and international aid workers, returning from a visit to Nicaragua, said that Canada should voice stronger opposition to any further US aid to the Contras. Lloyd Axworthy (Lib — Winnipeg-Fort Garry) said, "If we're going to give peace a chance in Central America and Nicaragua, the Contra aid

cannot continue." James Manly (NDP — Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands) said that there was no such thing as "humanitarian" aid to the Contras. US President Ronald Reagan had just endorsed a House of Representatives proposal for interim humanitarian and communications aid to the Contras (*Toronto Star*, September 17).

Costa Rican President Oscar Arias said on September 17, "I think Canada has the moral authority and will be heard with a lot of attention here in Central America. . . . It would be very helpful if Canada plays a more decisive role." Mr. Arias also reaffirmed his belief that Central American countries should be given a chance to solve their differences by means of the August 7 Guatemala accord, and he urged the US congress to wait until the November 7 ceasefire deadline before offering further aid to the Contras (*Ottawa Citizen*, September 18).

In the Commons on September 17 James Manly asked Mr. Clark whether, in an upcoming speech to the UN General Assembly, the Minister would "make explicit Canadian opposition to further funding of the Contras" by the US. Mr. Clark replied there were "some things that Canada can do to make a real contribution to the peace process [including] making clear our view that the presence of foreign powers in [Central America] is not helpful. [However] I do not believe that what the Hon. Member proposes we do would be constructive, helpful, or have an effect. Consequently, I want to maintain our capacity to look at and to pursue those avenues which will have an effect."