

discussions this morning, but earlier, for the Reagan peace plan which offers the best promise for progress. I realize that the situation is very difficult and that no one, certainly not myself, sees the light that would ensure a settlement, but I certainly would encourage, and did encourage, Mr. Schultz to continue those efforts in the prospect that at some point there will be a breakthrough. I think we have to continue those efforts. But as far as Canada is concerned we do not seek a special role in that process.

Q. Mr. MacEachen, what is Canada's position regarding the increasing externally-supported attacks on Nicaragua? Do you think that Canada can do anything in this situation, and did you discuss the matter with Secretary Schultz?

A. (M) We have, as a matter of policy, indicated our support for the Contadora group recently at New York. I expressed our political support for that effort and expressed an interest in contributing to that process if in our judgement we could make a contribution. I believe it is a step ahead that the twenty-one points of the Contadora Ministers have now been agreed and it remains to be seen how they can be implemented through a political process. I also mentioned the speech that the President of the United States made to Congress in April on Central America and that his suggestion with respect to a possible military verified withdrawal of forces from that area was a constructive one and that should receive international support. If the Contadora Group could accelerate a process leaning in that direction then it would be very constructive in the Canadian point of view.

Q. Do you have a position on the attacks on Nicaragua?

A. (M) I have not discussed specifically the attacks on Nicaragua. I have already discussed on an earlier occasion with Mr. Schultz our view as to how a military, in our view how the solution to the situation in Central America does not rest in the military root. That is a Canadian point of view that we have discussed in the past and to which I refer today.