



# communiqué

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## PEACE INITIATIVES FOR CENTRAL AMERICA

The Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced today that Canada fully supported the current peace initiatives in Central America promoted by the Foreign Ministers of Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela -- referred to as the "Contadora Group". These Ministers recently met in Panama on April 20 and 21 with the Foreign Ministers of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua to discuss ways and means to bring about a reduction of violence and tension in Central America leading to an eventual peaceful settlement of the current difficulties in that region. It has been the view of the Government of Canada that a resolution of the difficulties in Central America requires a process of discussion, dialogue and reconciliation between and among the various governments concerned and it considers that the Contadora Group sponsored meeting in Panama represented an important first step in that process. The Foreign Ministers meeting in Panama reached no specific conclusions at their first meeting but did agree to meet again later this month to resume their discussions and it is the hope of the Government of Canada that this second meeting will enable the Governments concerned to reach agreement on positive measures to begin the process of reconciliation and peaceful settlement. As the Government has stated on several previous occasions, Canada is prepared to do whatever it can to facilitate and encourage this process of dialogue and discussion if the countries directly concerned feel that Canada could play a useful, positive and effective role.