

promised to support any verifiable reciprocal agreement among Central American countries to renounce support of insurgent activities and for an end to the arms race in Central America.

The Government of Canada shares the basic objective of a politically and economically stable Central America, governed by democratic regimes responsive to the needs of the people. We fully appreciate the dilemma that is facing the United States government as it seeks to respond to these explosive events in a region of strategic importance to U.S. interests. We have therefore welcomed President Reagan's proposals and have followed carefully the reactions to them. We urge the United States and the countries of Latin America, including Cuba, to pursue political dialogue.

Currently, the eye of the storm is in El Salvador. The Government of El Salvador has its faults, but it is the legitimate government of that country, recognized as such by the United Nations and by all governments of the world. It enjoys a broad degree of political support, demonstrated by the 1982 elections, and it is seeking -- against considerable odds -- to implement social and economic reform and to develop democratic government. That process has been painfully slow, and we hope it will accelerate.

Canada cannot condone activities of left-wing guerrilla groups seeking to overthrow a legitimate government by armed