

Q: Will you be attempting in the days and weeks to come to separate our policy from United States policy in Central America? You've emphasized that difference this morning. The Prime Minister has said he would wait for your return before issuing a formal statement on the mining of Nicaragua. I'm wondering if we might see a statement of condemnation there or varying ways that would separate Canada from the United States.

DPM/SSEA: Well I don't think we want to separate Canada from the United States just for the sake of being different. If we have different views as a result of our analysis of the situation, then we ought to express them and we've done that on the general situation in Nicaragua. I've had my discussions with Mr. Shultz several times and we have disagreed on that important point of militarization, which the United States regards as essential and which we think is probably the wrong route to travel. So I don't, we have differences, they've become even clearer on this mining question and we say so, but I think we ought to not necessarily escalate our differences beyond those that are useful in the circumstances. I notice that the four Contadora Ministers, the Ministers from the Contadora countries, Venezuela, Colombia, Panama and Mexico, who are working with the Central American countries, issued a statement on the mining just on the weekend. They of course deplored the mining ...

Q: And the British have deplored it and the French have deplored it.

DPM/SSEA: So have we, so is it a battle over words or is it a battle over substance. I think on substance we have taken quite the same view as the Contadora Ministers and I think that's good company to keep because they are in the forefront. They're up front on this and we have said that we would support them in their efforts to bring about a regional solution, and believe you me that the solution has to come internally from these countries along with their neighbours. It's not going to come from abroad. We have help politically, we can help economically by our assistance in the form of development aid but we cannot impose our solutions on these countries. I don't think that's possible.

Q: We North Americans.

DPM/SSEA: We North Americans nor any other country in the world.

Q: Mr. MacEachen thank you very much for speaking with us this morning.

DPM/SSEA: Thank you.

Allan MacEachen, Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs spoke to us from our studio in Ottawa.