

Mr. Clark addressed the report's recommendation to continue and strengthen Canada's economic aid to the region as follows:

The Government *accepts* the Committee's recommendation that \$100 million, in addition to currently planned expenditures, be allocated to assist Central American reconstruction and economic development efforts at this critical period in the region's history. Although an increase of this magnitude cannot be accommodated over a 5-year period as suggested by the Committee, we will make such commitment for the 6-year period 1988-1994. The full implementation of this commitment could, of course, be affected by developments in the peace process.⁸

Mr. Clark also said that the Government would open aid offices in Tegucigalpa, Managua and San Salvador by the autumn of 1989.

Mr. Clark agreed with the Committee's recommendation to strengthen Canadian diplomatic representation in Central America. A new Honorary Consul had recently been approved for Tegucigalpa, Honduras and "a recommendation has been made for an Honorary Consul in San Salvador."⁹ On 1 November 1988 Mr. Clark announced the appointment of an Honorary Consul of Canada in Managua, Nicaragua.¹⁰

In the House of Commons on 12 April 1989, Progressive Conservative MP Terry Clifford tabled the report of the Official Delegation of the Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association on the Forum on Strengthening Democracy, held in Costa Rica on 6 to 8 February 1989. Mr. Clifford stated that, should proposals for the creation of a Central American Parliament be ratified, Canada would consider financial support towards that end.¹¹

During a wide-ranging debate on Canadian foreign and defence policies in the House of Commons on 13 April 1989, NDP MP Bill Blaikie made suggestions to the Government concerning Nicaragua:

...[T]he Nicaraguan Government is interested in having Canada play a role in the months leading up to the election set for February, 1990. I hope that the Minister will be open to any way in which Canada can be part of the international presence at the Nicaraguan elections, so those elections can be beyond reproach and can be seen to be a legitimate part of the peace process....I would encourage the Minister at the same time to consider enhancing development assistance to Nicaragua in order to alleviate some of their severe economic problems that are a result of the war, the [U.S.] embargo and various other things.¹²

8 *Ibid.*, p. 4.

9 *Ibid.*

10 Department of External Affairs, *News Release No. 233*, 1 November 1988.

11 *Commons Debates*, 12 April 1989, p. 398.

12 *Commons Debates*, 13 April 1989, p. 481.