

# News Release

# Communiqué

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## ASSISTANCE FOR NICARAGUAN ELECTIONS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, has announced that Canada will provide technical assistance to the Supreme Electoral Council of Nicaragua to help organize its general elections, scheduled to be held in February 1990. Such assistance could include the sending of experts to Nicaragua to advise on voter registration procedures or the provision of training in Canada for Nicaraguan election officials. Mr. Clark said Canada's offer of assistance was in keeping with its strong support for the Central American peace process, a key element of which is the development of democracy. In this connection, he said, Canada attaches great importance to the holding of free and fair elections in Nicaragua.

Dr. Leonel Arguello, Magistrate of the Nicaraguan Supreme Electoral Council, visited Ottawa on June 26-27 for discussions with Mr. Ron Gould, Assistant Chief Electoral Officer of Canada, on the electoral process in Nicaragua, and how Canada could best assist. He also met the Honourable John Bosley, P.C., M.P., and two members of the House of Commons Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade, as well as with officials of the Department of External Affairs and the Canadian International Development Agency, to explain Nicaragua's plans for the coming elections.

It is anticipated that officials of Elections Canada will visit Nicaragua soon to finalize arrangements for Canada's electoral assistance.

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Secretary of State  
for  
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État  
aux  
Affaires extérieures

Canada