

CENTRAL AMERICA

Secretary of State for External Affairs, (42nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, Sept. 22, 1987)

Canada supports the initiatives of the Central American presidents. We are prepared to provide our expertise mechanisms which, once peace is possible, can help it endure. The disputes must be resolved by those actually involved in the conflict, but Canada is prepared to contribute to that process in any direct and practical way open to us.

Canadian aid to the region has been steadily increasing, as has our funding and acceptance of refugees. We have expressed our view that the root problem in Central America is poverty, not ideology; that the real need is development assistance, not military activity; and that intervention by outside powers will only aggravate the tensions. We have supported the Contadora process, and have made available to Contadora the expertise Canadians have acquired in the techniques of peacekeeping.

(SEE ALSO CONFLICT RESOLUTION)

CHEMICAL WEAPONS

Ambassador for Disarmament, (42nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly, First Committee, New York, October 13, 1987)

Nuclear weapons, of course, are not the only weapons of mass destruction. There are also chemical weapons... The known existence and use of chemical weapons underline the importance of concluding as soon as possible a comprehensive ban on these abhorrent weapons. We should note that real progress has continued during the 1987 session of the Conference on Disarmament. A treaty banning chemical weapons will require the most complex set of verification measures ever included in a multilateral arms control agreement. It is therefore important that the negotiators proceed with special care and diligence, making as much speed as is consistent with thoroughness.

Ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament, (McGill University Centre for Research in Air and Space Law Symposium on Space Surveillance for Arms Control and Verification, Montreal, October 21, 1987).

It perhaps needs to be emphasized that the successful conclusion of a treaty is of importance not solely, perhaps not even mainly, in that limited context. Chemical weapons pose a global problem. CW capabilities and arsenals are not confined to the East-West context. In other areas of the world, CW capabilities exist and may have a proportionately greater