

A. J. MacEachen Scrum
J.-L. Pepin Scrum
S. Stevens Scrum

- Peacekeeping in Central
America -13H30 Oct 6-

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Question: Is it your view that it concerns the House to the extent that there might be a debate on it before you went ahead and responded officially to the request?

Allan J. MacEachen: Well, I think first of all we don't have a request, so I think a debate would be premature.

Q.: We missed the top of it, could you confirm for us whether the Government is going to send peacekeepers down to Central America?

SSEA.: I haven't been asked to send peacekeepers to Central America. I don't think any decision has ever been made by any group in Central America to bring peaceforces in there for peacekeeping. I think that that development has not yet taken place.

Q.: According to Mr Pepin in New York Canada is willing, is reading if asked ?

SSEA.: Well, I haven't talked to Mr Pepin, he just came into the House, about exactly what he said. We have indicated our support for the Contadora Group, we've given them our political support. If they reach precise arrangements with the Central America countries about security questions that would require some form of assistance by way of observers, then of course they would make a request and we'd have to consider it then. But it would be quite impossible at this stage without knowing what the nature of a hypothetical request would be to say yes.

Q.: Would it be in the form of troops?

SSEA.: Who knows? That's a very good question. I don't know. To my knowledge the political situation hasn't evolved in the Contadora Group to reach a judgement of that kind.