

its mandate to security issues."⁴ This issue was addressed in a statement delivered by Canadian Ambassador A. Raynell Andreychuk in the Third Committee of the 43rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly on 23 November 1988. Ms. Andreychuk praised the Peace Plan for its strong support of human rights issues and the democratization process, and urged the Central American Presidents "to honour this commitment to regional reconciliation with renewed vigour."⁵

PARLIAMENTARY COMMENT

On 5 July 1988, John Bosley, Chairman of the House of Commons Special Committee on the Peace Process in Central America, tabled the Committee's report entitled *Supporting the Five*. This Committee, composed of five Members of Parliament, was formed to study how Canada could play a constructive role in the Central American peace process. The report contained recommendations on military and political verification, the guarantee of human rights, democratic development of conditions and institutions, economic and humanitarian aid and the enhancement of Canada's diplomatic presence in the region, including the appointment of chargés d'affaires in Nicaragua, El Salvador and Honduras.

On 15 August 1988, Liberal MP Lloyd Axworthy made the following statement on Canada's overall role in the Central American peace process:

Six weeks ago a Commons committee unanimously put forward a series of recommendations as to how the Government of Canada could provide important and constructive recommendations, proposals and initiatives to help the peace initiative along. We have heard nothing from the Government since then. This is where Canada could provide a major contribution to an area of conflict in our own hemisphere and demonstrate our capacity and maturity as a country to help resolve conflicts.⁶

In a letter dated 23 September 1988 to the Chairman of the Special Committee, External Affairs Minister Clark responded positively to most of the report's recommendations. Mr. Clark said:

The Special Committee's Report shows what Canada has done and what we can still do. The task they assumed was difficult and complex. The work is all the more valuable in the present circumstances. It gives us hope, and it provides concrete ideas upon which we can try to build our attempts to encourage a just and lasting peace, and a more prosperous future for Central America.⁷

4 Department of External Affairs, Letter to Mr. Bosley, 23 September 1988, p. 2.

5 Department of External Affairs, *Statements and Speeches*, 23 November 1988.

6 *Commons Debates*, 15 August 1988, p. 18925.

7 Department of External Affairs, Letter to Mr. Bosley, 23 September 1988, p. 5. See also: Department of External Affairs, *News Release No. 207*, 26 September 1988.