

an unnamed Latin American country to verify a ban on providing bases for insurgents fighting neighbouring governments and to report on cross-border guerrilla movements.²⁴ A proposed observer force of 160 members was tentatively accepted by officials of the five signatory countries in March 1989, but full approval was stalled in disputes between the parties shortly afterwards. Should the proposal be approved by the Central American countries, the UN Security Council would debate the establishment of a UN force and send an advance party to further assess peacekeeping requirements.²⁵ Since the signing of the Guatemala Accord on 7 August 1987, the Canadian Government has expressed interest in participating in such a peacekeeping effort, but reservations focus on the relatively small size of the proposed peacekeeping force to date, and its eventual mandate. The official Canadian position is that should Canada receive an invitation to participate, as is widely anticipated, it will make its decision on the merits of the mission at that time.²⁶

On 5 April 1989, Vietnam formally asked Canada, Poland and India to form a monitoring commission to verify the withdrawal of the 50,000 to 70,000 Vietnamese troops in Cambodia, scheduled to end in September 1989. External Affairs Minister Clark set as conditions for Canadian participation a Vietnamese agreement to withdraw, UN Security Council endorsement of the plan, a clear peacekeeping mandate with a set lifespan, proper funding, and evidence that this would be part of a comprehensive solution to the Cambodian problem.²⁷

In a letter sent to External Affairs Minister Joe Clark in April 1989, the Colombian rebel group M-19 (also known as the April 19 Movement) asked Canada to establish an observer mission to participate in the Colombian Government's peace negotiations with rebel groups beginning in July 1989. On 3 May 1989 it was reported that the group had still not received a reply from Mr. Clark. According to an External Affairs spokesman, a formal request to the Canadian Government by the Government of Colombia would be necessary before Canada would consider participating.²⁸

PARLIAMENTARY COMMENT

In the House of Commons on 29 September 1988, the then Defence Minister Perrin Beatty rose to report on the selection of the UN Peacekeeping Forces as the recipient of the

²⁴ John Hay, "Keeping the Peace: Canada Weighing Risky Proposals from Vietnam, Central America." *Ottawa Citizen*, 13 May 1989, p. B4; and "Central American States Ask UN for Observer Team With Canadians." *Gazette*, 9 February 1989, p. D12.

²⁵ "UN Force for Central America." *Jane's Defence Weekly*, vol. 11 no. 13 (1 April 1989), p. 547.

²⁶ Gilles Paquin, "The Perils of Peacekeeping: Canada Should Think Twice Before Sending its Peacekeepers into the Quagmire of Central America's War." *Peace & Security*, vol. 3 no. 1 (Spring 1988), pp. 6-7.

²⁷ Hay, *supra* note 24, p. B4.

²⁸ Malarek, Victor, "Colombian Rebels Seek Canadian Help." *Globe and Mail*, 3 May 1989, p. A13.