

if led by states with whom they seek to expand their influence, than they are to impede similar efforts managed by the United States in such a way as to secure its own interests.<sup>100</sup>

The outlook for the Caribbean Basin, and particularly for Central America, is not rosy. The area faces a prolonged period of economic privation and social and political instability. It is not inevitable, however, that this should produce violent revolution. Nor is it inevitable that revolution in the region should produce an expansion in Soviet power there, to the detriment of Western security. Whether these occur is largely a function of the policies of the United States and its allies. The situation demands wisdom, tolerance and restraint, rather than inflexible rhetorical posturing and military excess.



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<sup>100</sup> In interviews in Campinas, Brazil, in July 1985, Soviet personnel from the foreign ministry and the Institute of Latin American Studies repeatedly stated their support for the Contadora initiative, presumably as a result of an awareness of the regional diplomatic advantages of such a posture.