

and opposition to outside intervention. But against this is the weight of continuing pressure from the U.S. administration, for America's allies to see things the way it does. External Affairs Minister, Allan MacEachen, illustrated how he juggles these factors in a June 3rd. speech to the United Nations Association in Ottawa. Mr. MacEachen, explained that an important principle for Canada is how his government understands the causes of Central American conflicts.

SSEA: The fundamental problems of Central America are the result of a long history of political, economic and social repression. Stability cannot be restored until the forces for change have been accommodated.

CARDY: In this respect, Canadian policy differs from that of the United States. The Reagan administration describes Central America as a battleground in the East-West conflict. It wants a military victory against revolutions it believes are inspired not by homegrown discontent, but by outside Communist forces. But, Mr. MacEachen shares part of the American interpretation. In tune with Washington's East-West analysis, he recognizes that the United States has a right to claim a sphere of influence in Central America. That foreign influences are interfering with the natural process of social change.

SSEA: Interference by outside ideologies and political forces holds great danger for this process. We fully appreciate the dilemma that is facing the United States Government in a region of strategic importance to United States interests.

CARDY: Critics of Canadian policy are upset with Mr. MacEachen's adherence to President Reagan's view of a red menace in Central America. Edgar Dosman. teaches Political Science at York University. He helped prepare a major study on Latin America, with a recent Parliamentary review of Canadian relations with the Continent. Professor Dosman says Canadian policies are not even-handed. That Washington has sold Ottawa on its cold war concept of Central American strife. The concept, he says doesn't fit the reality.

DOSMAN: The Department of External Affairs has demonstrated an acute interest in what is termed Nicaraguan intervention in El Salvador. Unfortunately, there has been in my opinion, far less attention to current activities of Washington against Nicaragua in particular. It is a flight from reality to believe that the Soviet Union is willing to pounce on Central America. The first principle of Central America is that there is only one outside power. and that is the United States. It has in many cases installed the very regimes that have brought such great suffering to the region. The U.S. is damaging immensely its influence in all of the hemisphere. For the Soviet Union, it must be a source of satisfaction, that while it's bogged down in Afghanistan, it now can see the U.S. chasing rainbows in Central America.

CARDY: Foreign policy experts say Canada lacks independent positions, because it doesn't have an independent means of intelligence gathering and political assessment. Ottawa follows Washington's analysis that the Salvadorean regime is a legitimate government defending itself against rebels who receive outside military aid. Yet External Affairs officials admit they have never seen conclusive evidence of either Nicaraguan or