

Venezuela the assurance that Canada fully supports the peace initiative. He also said that Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto would visit Canada when a date agreeable to both him and External Affairs Minister Allan MacEachen was found. The Nicaraguan minister was to have paid an official visit to Canada last spring, but had to cancel.

On December 13, MP Dan Heap (NDP, Spadina) welcomed a delegation from his riding back to Canada after an eighteen day fact-finding tour of Nicaragua. While in Nicaragua, the delegation visited an area bordering Honduras which had recently been the scene of raids by supporters of the deposed Somoza regime; met with officials from various government ministries and organizations; visited flood victim settlements newspaper offices, factories, housing projects and plantations (NDP press release, December 10).

In an interview December 13, Mr. Ogle, who had also been recently in Nicaragua, said that he was optimistic that Canada was moving in a direction that could enable it to play a positive mediation role in Nicaragua, because of the expressed support for the Mexico-Venezuelan initiative, and the expected visit of the Nicaraguan foreign minister. He also said that Canada and other democratic nations should send a fact-finding team to Honduras to confirm that US-backed Somoza regime supporters were attacking Nicaragua from across the Honduran border. "Honduras does not have a right to let that happen to a neighboring country. There must be some pressure that can be brought to bear against Honduras by Venezuela, Mexico, Canada and other countries challenging them and their right to support the Somicistas on their borders," he said (*Globe and Mail*, December 14).

Mr. Ogle also "sharply attacked" the Reagan administration's Central American policy. Their "clear black-and-white interpretation of 'Communists against free enterprise' is an improper way of looking at Central America," he said. The people of Central America "are seriously trying to get hold of their own history and build up their own countries and they don't want American interference." Mr. Ogle had been in Washington a week earlier to discuss his views with senior State Department officials (*Globe and Mail*, December 14).

In the House of Commons January 21, Mr. Ogle referred to recent US magazine reports which detailed the aid given by the US to the Somoza regime supporters in Honduras. "In view of the fact that the US is sending 1,600 troops to Honduras next month to compete in military exercises within fifteen kilometers of the Nicaraguan border, and that the conclusions of the subcommittee on Latin America recommended that the maintenance of stability in the area be the number one priority of the government of Canada," he urged External Affairs Minister Allan MacEachen to visit Washington and all countries of Central America to aid in bringing about a peaceful solution to the problem.

## PAKISTAN

### Visit to Canada of President

Pakistani President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq visited Canada from December 14 to 19. He arrived in Montreal on

December 14 and met with businessmen, diplomats, federal External Relations Minister Charles Lapointe and Quebec External Trade Minister Bernard Landry before arriving in Ottawa December 16.

Opposition Members of Parliament questioned the government in the House of Commons December 15 and 16 about Canada's policy toward Pakistan. PC external affairs critic John Crosbie (St. John's West) expressed "a great deal of fear that Pakistan is a country determined to develop a nuclear weapon." On December 15, Mr. Crosbie asked Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau whether the government would, during the visit, urge the Pakistani President to sign full-scope safeguards and the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. Mr. Trudeau replied that Canada would continue its policy not to supply nuclear fuel or other nuclear implements to Pakistan until Pakistan signs the non-proliferation treaty. The Prime Minister also said that talks with General Zia would include discussion of the problems for Pakistan arising from the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

A motion in the House of Commons by Dan Heap (NDP, Spadina) on December 16 that the Prime Minister ask General Zia "to end martial law in Pakistan, to release political prisoners and to restore diplomatic elections and an independent judiciary" did not receive the required unanimous consent of the House. Mr. Heap was concerned about the "massive violations of human rights, including arbitrary arrests, floggings and execution of political opponents" in Pakistan, as reported by Amnesty International. Mr. Heap said in a press release the same day, "The Prime Minister and the other members of Cabinet who are entertaining General Zia while he is in Canada have a responsibility to let him know that the cruelty and ruthlessness of his regime offends the standards of decency and the principles of justice of the people of Canada. Canadians who have angrily opposed the imposition of martial law in Poland will find it difficult to understand how our government leaders can now entertain the head of the martial law regime of Pakistan." NDP MPs also boycotted a state dinner for President Zia at Government House, and a special meeting of the House of Commons External Affairs Committee during the visit.

Also protesting Pakistan's human rights record was Amnesty International, which sent letters to the Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister Allan MacEachen asking the Canadian leaders to address these concerns during the visit, and staged a demonstration outside the Pakistani Embassy in Ottawa December 16 (*The Citizen*, December 17).

On December 17, at a press conference, President Zia told reporters that Canada had pledged to attach no strings to continued economic and humanitarian assistance, regardless of political or human rights conditions in his country. Senior Canadian government officials confirmed this to reporters, and said that human rights was not a question raised with the Pakistani President by Prime Minister Trudeau, according to *The Citizen*, December 18. The officials defended the government's decision to receive him and to continue to provide Pakistan with aid. One official said, "We do appreciate they have a major and extremely destabilizing situation on their northern border," and it was argued that Canada was not propping up General Zia but was providing aid to a very poor country. This was counter to arguments presented by the exiled Secretary-general of the Pakistan People's Party, which had been overthrown by