

mention Canadian interests in protecting our coastal resources, boundaries in the Arctic, etc. We are also pointlessly squandering the capital of our hard-won international reputation, which will jeopardize our credibility and our influence in future negotiations of any kind, and in particular the negotiations toward the common security world order proposed in this paper.

The treaty requires that it be ratified by 60 countries before it comes into force. Canada should ratify as early as possible and set an international example.

**Recommendation 3-13:** That Canada ratify the Law of the Sea Treaty and set an international example of compliance with its provisions.

### Central America

The maintenance of peace in Central America is vital not only to local security but global security. A war anywhere in that tense region would lead to a general instability and spur military build-ups throughout the area, putting further strain on shaky civilian governments and on the ability of those countries to ever pay their debts. U.S. involvement in Central American conflict is already becoming an obstacle in the way of improved East-West relations.

On the other hand, the search for security in Central America seems to be leading to the evolution of new international arrangements. If the experiment succeeds it could provide a model for other parts of the world.

Canada has much to lose from a war in Central America, and much to gain from the achievement of a secure peace. We commend this government for the supportive role it has played in the Contadora process to date, and also for the degree of independence it has shown in the face of U.S. policy with regard to Nicaragua.

**Recommendation 3-14:** That Canada continue to provide all possible support to the Contadora process, including peace-keeping.

**Recommendation 3-14b:** That Canada promote within the Contadora process the idea of a regional mediation facility and/or a regional court for the peaceful resolution of conflicts according to law.

**Recommendation 3-14c:** That Canada support in whatever way possible, including financial, the proposal of Vinicio Cerezo, the president of Guatemala, for a Central American parliament to strengthen co-operation within the region.

**Recommendation 3-14d:** That Canada increase the credibility of its diplomatic presence in Central America by opening an embassy in Nicaragua.