



No. 063

March 18, 1988.

## SITUATION IN HONDURAS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today expressed his deep concern with regard to the serious situation which has developed on the Nicaragua-Honduras border. Mr. Clark noted that "Canada has a longstanding interest in the Central American peace process, and we are disturbed by any event which threatens that process".

As the Honourable Pat Carney, Minister of International Trade, said today "there is a growing consensus that Nicaraguan forces did enter Honduras in force. Coming on the very eve of ceasefire discussions, this will have a negative effect on the chances for peace".

Mr. Clark also expressed concern over the despatch of additional U.S. forces to Honduras. While the presence of U.S. forces there is at the request of the Honduran authorities, he expressed concern that this has increased tensions threatening the spirit of the Central American peace plan. Mr. Clark called on all parties to the dispute to settle their differences at the bargaining table rather than on the battlefield.

Diplomatic representatives of Nicaragua, Honduras and the United States were called to the Department of External Affairs today so that Canadian views could be conveyed to their respective governments.

- 30 -