

opportunities for Canada to work for the realization of peace and to help alleviate the very real conditions of hardship in the region.

The Guatemala Accord, signed by the five Central American presidents, defined mechanisms and a timetable for the resolution of internal conflicts through national dialogue and reconciliation, as well as for ending the varying degrees of outside military assistance to insurgencies in the region. Canada considered the Accord of major importance since it demonstrated, for the first time, the political will of the five Central American governments to pursue an indigenous peace plan, free of outside interference.

Canada had previously supported the Contadora peace process and had provided to the Latin American foreign ministers a number of technical papers on the design and implementation of peacekeeping mechanisms based on its extensive experience in this field. Immediately after the signing of the Guatemala Accord, Joe Clark sent two senior officials to the area to emphasize Canada's commitment to a peaceful resolution of the conflicts and full support for this latest initiative. These officials reminded leaders of the five countries of Canada's willingness to offer advice based on its experience and knowledge. Mr. Clark reiterated this commitment in his speech to the United Nations' General Assembly in September.

In November, Mr. Clark visited each of the five Central American countries, meeting with the presidents and foreign ministers of each country as well as with opposition and human rights leaders, academics and labour leaders. In each of the five countries, he discussed peace, development and human rights, and Canadian views were well received.

The Central American peace plan gave momentum to the search for solutions to internal conflicts of the region. For the first time, the Nicaraguan government and the "contra" opposition agreed to hold face-to-face ceasefire negotiations. On March 23, 1988, a limited-duration agreement was signed by the two sides, improving the prospects for peace in the Nicaraguan conflict. Mr. Clark issued a statement of support for the breakthrough in which he said, "I encourage the two sides to continue to be flexible and pursue peace in the next phase of the dialogue, to ensure a firm and lasting settlement."

In the UN General Assembly, Canada maintained its distinctive position on Central America. In 1987, for the second time in a row, Canada voted in favour of a resolution calling upon the United States to abide by the decision of the International Court of Justice in the Nicaragua vs. United States case. As in previous years, Canada supported resolutions calling for further human rights reforms in El Salvador and Guatemala. These

**Table 13**  
**CANADIAN TRADE WITH THE CARIBBEAN AND CENTRAL AMERICA**  
(thousands of dollars)

	EXPORTS		IMPORTS	
	Percentage increase from 1986	1987	Percentage increase from 1986	1987
The Bahamas	16.7	30 723	41.5	42 182
Barbados	-0.5	41 084	-0.6	21 134
Belize	52.8	6 070	385.4	5 879
Bermuda	23.3	36 770	-79.8	5 454
Costa Rica	11.7	29 403	11.7	63 200
Cuba	-26.0	267 113	-27.5	51 567
Dominican Republic	2.3	54 251	-18.7	29 302
El Salvador	38.6	15 609	-32.7	43 151
French West Indies	284.3	7 260	-43.9	711
Guatemala	33.9	20 182	-18.3	32 951
Haiti	22.1	25 386	-29.3	8 664
Honduras	-1.5	13 756	-18.1	16 934
Jamaica	34.8	94 403	-24.1	113 769
Lee-Wind Islands	-40.8	45 723	2.5	5 525
Mexico	31.3	521 982	-0.4	1 174 503
Neth. Antilles	55.9	10 560	20.4	19 629
Nicaragua	-56.7	9 820	-15.9	28 661
Panama	-16.7	33 836	10.0	30 765
Puerto Rico	13.2	228 827	16.4	226 876
Trinidad and Tobago	-18.9	69 671	-31.8	36 857
U.S. Virgin Islands	-5.5	4 630	32.5	54 075
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>1 567 062</b>	<b>-3.5</b>	<b>2 011 787</b>