

to assist the economic reconstruction of that country. We have in process a considerable line of credit that might yet be made available to the government of Nicaragua.

Milewski: To pursue that for a moment. There seem to be two schools of thought. First, that the reason the Nicaragua government is not bringing about its promises, as you've described them, is because of external pressure. The other school of thought is that the external pressure is arising from the United States because of the Nicaraguan government's failure to keep its promises. Which of these two competing schools do you agree with?

MacEachen: Well, I think that my school is it would be easier to judge the situation if all foreign presences were out of there. Then we could see what is happening internally. But if you have contending forces, there is no doubt that there are outside influences there, in the form of military advisers, maybe arms and soldiers, and once these are removed, then I think one could judge these questions more easily.

Milewski: In conclusion then, to place this in the context of this discussion here this week-end, we're hearing a lot in interviews with other participants to the effect that Canada has to speak out, to take a more independent course from the United States, to make its views felt a little less cautiously. Do you see some room for doing that? You've spoken, for example, of perhaps some credits to Nicaragua, of making our views known, our independence of the American course of action in Central America a little more apparent.

MacEachen: But I have done that in Washington, for example, in a discussion with Mr. Shultz. We had a very protracted, or I should say, we had a full discussion of the situation in Central America and we agreed to disagree. So we made our views known. I think in public statements I've made these views known, that we don't attach the same, we don't give the same validity to the military approach that the United States is giving at the present time.

Milewski: I appreciate your taking the time, thank you, sir. Can I just make a note of the... when you mentioned... (inaudible - noises). They're probably trying to drag you out of here.

MacEachen: They're monitoring my comments (laugh).