

military spending, allocating savings to humanitarian relief, studying conversion of military industry and publicizing military budgets. But significantly almost nothing is said about the spread of sophisticated weapons, including ballistic missiles, around the world. In this regard, the Government should consider making more information available about Canadian exports of arms, partly in order to dissipate public confusion, but also in order to be in a position to explore the possibilities of breaking the conspiracy of silence on this issue at the UN.

### 3) Regional Conflict

#### Introduction

A review of this length cannot usefully survey the twenty or more conflicts in which troops are involved around the world. Those of major concern to Canada are described below. Canadian policy has traditionally been, and remains, to support United Nations and regional efforts to bring about the settlement of such disputes through the provision of assistance for peacekeeping, where appropriate, and for the needs of refugees and the alleviation of famine. Canadian soldiers serving the UN number about 1,000, a slight increase over 1986; they are stationed principally in Cyprus and on the Israel/Syria border. Some 21,000 legal refugees reached Canada during the year, and perhaps as many arrived illegally. Fifteen percent of Canada's official development aid goes towards food.

#### a) Central America

At the beginning of 1987 the Contadora process, an initiative launched in 1983 by Mexico, Panama, Colombia and