

DPM/SSEA: Well, we have been as active as we can be, because when I was there I put the question not only in Costa Rica, in Colombia, but in every country I went: what can Canada do to help you? We stand ready, especially in the security commission, but the fact is they have not formulated their conclusion or they have not formulated a settlement to the point where they can ask a country like Canada for help in control and verification and that is, it seems to me, apart from our developmental assistance, and we're tripling our assistance in Central America developmentally, apart from that and apart from our political support which we are giving and which we will continue to give, there would be another area where we might be helpful and that is in the area of control and verification and we would consider a role, I think, once we knew the circumstances.

I have also said, made it clear and instructed the officials of the department to have discussions with the three commissions that have been established by the Contadora Group, namely the Security Commission, the Political Commission and the Social and Economic Commission. To the present we have not been able to have that done, not because we're not ready but because they haven't given us a method of doing it. So in order to help, there has to be a way you can help and a readiness to accept your help and a facility by which it can be had, can be accepted.

W: The Reagan Administration has quite a public relations campaign going on to try to get people on the side to support the Administration. Are you concerned that this might escalate into another Vietnam?

DPM/SSEA: That is a concern that is expressed in the United States and I think, well, the President has made it clear that it is not the intention of the United States to put troops into Nicaragua to fight a battle on the ground, so that it seems to me the prospect is not real at the moment that the United States would undertake an expeditionary force into Nicaragua.

Q: You don't see any parallels to the days of the Vietnam war then?

DPM/SSEA: Well, there may be parallels. You're asking whether I think they will fight, involve American fighting men, in Nicaragua, and I think it's quite unlikely, but I think that one has to examine American concerns and the American concern as I understand it, is that the process of social change is being