

and we certainly regard the mining of the harbours as another evidence of escalation of tension or violence or whatever term you want to use. I think it's a mistake to conclude that the sole difficulty is the mining. The Contadora Ministers just recently issued a statement in which they link the mining to a number of other things, including the escalation of the guerilla activity in whatever country it may take place. The mining is serious and so are the other developments. It seems to me that what is required now is a major international effort through the expression of world opinion to put pressure on the countries in there to move out under some orderly conditions, and I think that is what the Contadora Ministers are trying to do.

Q: One of the difficulties surely in trying to muster or use the leverage of world opinion is that much of the outrage in Washington already has been caused by the announcement of the Reagan Administration that they won't accept the jurisdiction of the World Court regarding Central America for the next two years. What are we going to do about that?

DPM/SSEA: That's a very complicated legal issue but I think that while that is important no doubt, I think that the effort on the part of the Nicaraguans to go to the World Court is a symptom of the underlying difficulties that exist there. They are obviously going to the World Court probably to secure justice, but certainly to draw international attention to the situation that exists there. It seems to me it would be equally or more constructive for all of us to get behind the negotiations that are taking place under the auspices of the Contadora Ministers, which have as their objective the demilitarization of the area. The removal of military advisers, the ultimate disarmament of the Central American countries and the restoration of some equilibrium as between the military forces of the various countries.

Q: I'm not sure what you're saying, Sir, about the World Court itself, about the Nicaraguan attempt to go to the World Court and the United States statement that they will ignore what the World Court does.

DPM/SSEA: Well, what the United States have done is to say that it does not accept, or will not accept, the jurisdiction of the World Court for two years with respect to Central America. That is their decision.

Q: Does that strike you as at the very least ironic when the United States was going to the World Court about Iran?

DPM/SSEA: Well, the Americans themselves argue a great deal about that, as you know. I think it is a bit ironic, it may be a bit odd that they have excluded their own participation in