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SUBJECT/
SUJET Green Paper on Foreign Policy

PROGRAM(S)/
EMISSION(S) CBC Radio - Commentary - May 13

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CBC: External Affairs Minister Joe Clark is expected to release his green paper on Canadian Foreign Policy tomorrow. Central America is a region of increasing importance on the world stage. John Kirk who teaches Latin American Studies at Dalhousie University says that Canada should not imitate U.S. President Reagan's recently announced trade boycott of Nicaragua.

JK: Our Government should have the moral courage to voice strong disagreement with Mr. Reagan as many European and Latin American leaders have already done. As well, in view of our international reputation as an honest broker, we should continue to assist the Contadora nations, but in a more energetic fashion and with much more initiative than we have to date.

Moreover, since Nicaragua will continue to be in the eye of the storm, our Government should stop relying on shoddy, often second-hand information.

We should resurrect the very successful Parliamentary Sub-Committee examining Canada's relations with Latin America and also send a multi-party delegation of MPs on a fact-finding mission to the area. Perhaps Mr. Clark too could follow his predecessor's example and travel there himself. In addition, our pathetic representation with small offices in Guatemala and Costa Rica surely should be beefed up with an office in Nicaragua, as even Mrs. Thatcher's government has recently done. Finally, we should seek to defuse the volatile situation in Central America by creating a dialogue, a political space. One effective means of doing this is to improve aid and trade with