

Canada welcomed the new initiative to promote a settlement of the conflicts in Central America put forward by President Arias of Costa Rica who simultaneously affirmed his country's strong support for Contadora. We are also pleased that the Presidents of the five Central American countries have agreed to meet to discuss the initiative.

Concern has been expressed about the lack of progress of the Contadora negotiations and the fact that there have been difficulties in reaching speedy agreement on a regional peace accord acceptable to all the Central American parties. While recognizing that the Contadora initiative continues to face difficulties, Canada has maintained its position that the Contadora process is the best instrument for reconciliation in Central America. We believe that it is important that the process continue, as it helps to lower tensions and provides a framework for an eventual settlement.