

was prepared to remove all military advisers and all military presences if all others would do the same thing, and particularly if it could be done on a verifiable basis. I believe that international public opinion and international support ought to be gathered to encourage not only the United States but all others to move out. Now, I don't think that it's reasonable to expect them to leave the scene to others.

Milewski: O.K., I guess you anticipated my next question, which was, whether you see any prospect that the chorus of voices, not only Canada's, asking the Americans to desist from these exercises, is likely to have any effect?

MacEachen: I think that, an effective response will occur when all countries, whether it be Cuba, or Cuba through the Soviet Union, will agree to do the same thing. And I think it also means, as is indicated in the proposals made by the Presidents of the countries in the region, that steps have to be taken to improve the relations between the countries, their boundaries, their pressure on each other, but I think that's more for the countries themselves to deal with.

Milewski: Thirdly on the question of the Sandinista government, I guess that's what this is about. It depends what you think of the Sandinista government, what sort of attitude you take to them. How, if at all, does the Canadian government's attitude to the Sandinistas differ from that of the United States? That is that they're, potentially at least, Soviet puppets?

MacEachen: Well, we've taken the view that countries should be permitted to pick their own governments without the benefit of assistance from outsiders and there came into being in Nicaragua the Sandinista government. It had very noble ideas. It has emblazoned upon its escutcheon the prospects for democratic pluralism, better relations among the groups in the country, religious conciliation and so on. We thought these were noble ideas and it would please us much if they were implemented by the authorities in Nicaragua. And we understand the difficulties, but we would support certainly their efforts to implement the original principles. We haven't withdrawn in distaste from Nicaragua. I received the Nicaraguan Foreign Minister in Canada not so long ago. We would appreciate a situation that would make it possible for us