

personnel and financial resource constraints. I hope to be able to respond positively to the recommendation that the position of Chargé d'Affaires at our post in Guatemala be upgraded to the level of Ambassador.

The work of the Special Committee and its visit to the region took place at a time when the peace movement had greater vitality and better short term prospects than it does now. Since then, the Sandinista-contra talks have stalled, there has been an escalation in tensions between Managua and Washington and between Honduras and Nicaragua. The tragic illness of President Duarte has added another element of uncertainty to that already troubled country. Sadly, the last meeting of the Executive Commission of Central America Foreign Ministers broke down at the end of June and no agreement was reached to proceed with verification and control.

This does not in any way invalidate the work of the Committee, for its task was to see how we could continue to promote the peace process. Many observers have already dismissed Esquipulas as moribund. Since the inception of the Contadora over five years ago, on many occasions, the peace process has been pronounced dead. In spite of their differences, however, I think all five countries of Central America still share a unity of purpose in their desire for peace. It is significant that no party has renounced the process, no matter how elusive progress seems. The Special Committee's Report shows what Canada has done and what we can still do. The task they assumed was difficult and complex. The work is all the more valuable in the present circumstances. It gives us hope, and it provides concrete ideas upon which we can try to build in our attempts to encourage a just and lasting peace, and a more prosperous future for Central America.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature, possibly "J. J. ...", written in dark ink. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.