

- (h) establish internal control mechanisms to prevent the traffic of arms from one country to the other
- (i) avoid declarations and actions that endanger the development of a climate of political confidence necessary for peaceful solutions
- (j) coordinate systems of direct communication among the Governments concerned to prevent armed conflicts and to generate an atmosphere of mutual political confidence.

The four Presidents also urged that the above measures be accompanied by serious efforts to strengthen democratic institutions, guarantee the observance of human rights, and to encourage political pluralism, the participation of diverse currents of opinion in the political process and full participation of all citizens in the political life of their countries. The four Presidents also stressed the importance of resolving the problems of economic underdevelopment which are the cause of many of the conflicts of the area and of strengthening the mechanisms for economic cooperation, increased regional commerce and better access to world markets.

Mr. MacEachen noted that the proposals of the four Presidents, if accepted and implemented by the Central American governments concerned, would represent a very positive step toward achieving peace in Central America and he hoped that the Governments of the Central American countries would respond positively to these initiatives.

In this connection, he noted that a six-point policy statement of July 19 by Commander Daniel Ortega, Coordinator of the Governing Junta of Nicaragua, also represented an encouraging and positive step by the Government of Nicaragua in the development of a constructive dialogue toward peace. Mr. Ortega proposed a non-aggression pact between Nicaragua and Honduras, a ban on the supply of arms by any nation to combattant forces in El Salvador, a ban on all foreign military aid and training in Central America, respect for self determination and non-intervention in the internal affairs of Central American countries, an end to aggression and economic discrimination, and a ban on foreign bases and military exercises with foreign troops in Central America.