



communiqué

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SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MEETING WITH CONTADORA AMBASSADORS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, announced that, at his request, he met with the Ambassadors of the three Contadora countries with resident Embassies in Ottawa (Their Excellencies Dr. Jaime Pinzon Lopez of Colombia, Mr. José Andres de Oteyza of Mexico and Mr. José Maria Machin of Venezuela) on November 26. Discussions were held on the situation in Central America and on ways and means of achieving a peaceful solution to the crisis in that region.

Mr. Clark reaffirmed Canada's strong support for the Contadora initiative. He congratulated the Contadora group for the strenuous efforts they have been making to encourage a peaceful settlement of difficulties in Central America. He expressed Canada's hope that discussions involving all Central American countries would continue at this crucial period to ensure a comprehensive and workable peace agreement.

Canada will continue to express both political and moral support to the peace process in Central America. Mr. Clark announced that at the request of the Contadora countries, Canada would be providing comments and advice on control and verification mechanisms, based on our experience in peacekeeping operations.

The Ambassadors conveyed to Mr. Clark the appreciation of their Governments for Canada's reiteration of support for the Contadora initiative and for Canada's substantial aid contribution to the region. They stressed the urgency of reaching a solution to the political, economic and social problems of Central America and the positive role Canada could continue to play in that respect.