

IT IS DISAPPOINTING TO ALL OF US WHO ARE WORKING TOWARD PEACE IN CENTRAL AMERICA THAT THESE TALKS HAVE BECOME STALLED. WE CALL ON BOTH SIDES TO RENEW THEIR EFFORTS SO THAT THE HOPE FOR PEACE AND DEMOCRACY IN NICARAGUA WILL BE A REALITY. IN THE BROADER CONTEXT, WE ENCOURAGE THE LEADERS OF THE FIVE CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES TO WORK TOGETHER TO REVIVE THE SPIRIT OF ESQUIPULAS II, AND RESTORE THE MOMENTUM OF THE HISTORIC PROCESS WHICH THEY INITIATED ONE YEAR AGO. CANADA STANDS READY TO ASSIST, AS WE HAVE SAID ON NUMEROUS OCCASSIONS, IN ANY PRACTICAL WAY WE CAN.

FOR UNDERSTANDABLE HISTORIC REASONS, CANADA HAS A VERY SPECIAL AND PRIORITY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING NATIONS OF THE CARIBBEAN WITH WHICH WE SHARE A COMMON COLONIAL HERITAGE, A COMMON LANGUAGE, AND COMMON LEGAL AND POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS. THIS SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP IS MANIFESTED IN A VERY SIGNIFICANT LEVEL OF PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE INTERCHANGES, INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT IN 1986 OF CARIBCAN, AN ARRANGEMENT BY WHICH CANADA IS VIRTUALLY A FREE MARKET FOR COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN EXPORTS. OVER THE YEARS THE CARIBBEAN HAS BEEN A PRIORITY BENEFICIARY OF CANADIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PRORAMMES. EACH SUMMER SOME 5,000 PERSONS FROM THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES OBTAIN TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT IN CANADA IN HARVESTING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS IN A PROGRAM WHICH