

In this same context, I welcome the commitment taken by the USA Administration, based on the Kissinger Commission, to address some of the basic problems of the region through economic support. In the case of El Salvador, I am encouraged by indications that the proposed conditionality of USA aid upon performance in the human rights field will stand. We are, however, concerned about the extent to which military aid is a major component of the Kissinger Proposals. In keeping with Canada's position against third party intervention in Central America and the supply of armaments to opposing factions, we oppose continued military support for anti-Sandinista insurgents just as we oppose the promotion of, and support for, armed insurgency in El Salvador and Guatemala by outside powers.

We do not believe in military solutions for Central America. Moreover, we do believe that any attempt to impose military solutions will decrease rather than promote stability in the area. Militarization engenders political polarization. The militarization of Central America, whether of the left or of the right, has the consequence of weakening those moderate indigenous political forces which, in harness with Contadora, are indispensable if national reconciliation in these countries is to be secured.

Equally indispensable will be the full cooperation of the United States and Cuba. In September, I welcomed the offer of verifiable demilitarization made earlier by President Reagan. There has been some positive reaction from Cuba and Nicaragua - but still no dialogue.

I have been talking at length about an important part of the world that I do not yet know at first hand. I am anxious to correct this omission. I am planning to visit Central America as soon as possible. I expect to learn from this visit and to have the opportunity to express more directly Canada's support for the Contadora peace initiative.

Doctor Lloreda, we have already had productive discussions and I look forward to the further development of our conversations.

May I now ask our guests to join with me in a toast - and I am not certain whether it would be more appropriate to take up the coffee cup or the wine glass - to His Excellency the Foreign Minister of Colombia.