

Q: By those outsiders you mean ...

DPM/SSEA: I mean the United States, I mean Cuba, I mean the Soviet Union and any others which are, any other countries which are implicated and involved. But there is no doubt that there is a flow of support from several directions into the Central American area and I don't think it's useful to talk about one group or one sector leaving without ensuring that everybody gets out and permits the people, with outside support of another form, to get on with the job of democratizing their countries and building up their economies.

Q: Mr. MacEachen with the Contras specifically in the news and specifically this morning, can I ask you your position on those people, on that movement. Do you condone what the Contras are doing against Nicaragua?

DPM/SSEA: Well, it's a very difficult picture to assess, I think, with total objectivity, but certainly there is opposition to the Sandinistas, both within and outside Nicaragua. I found that opposition within Nicaragua, as I talked to various groups, a rather diversified collection of groups in Nicaragua, and the opposition presumably which is expressed on the Honduran border or the Nicaraguan border is made up of individuals who oppose the Sandinista régime, presumably with support from other quarters.

Q: But it's fairly widely accepted now, is it not, that that is American support.

DPM/SSEA: I think it's generally accepted. It would be difficult for you or me to prove it, because we don't have that kind of capacity, but it is certainly widely accepted that the effort is supported by the United States.

Q: Now no secret that the CIA put those mines in those waters.

DPM/SSEA: Well, that seems also to be a conclusion that at least there is United States involvement. I'm not aware that any official spokesman for the United States has clarified the situation to that extent, but there seems to be enough evidence coming out of Washington in recent days to indicate that there is United States or has been United States involvement in the mining of the harbours.

Q: And if there is, do you condone it?

DPM/SSEA: Well, of course not. We have made it clear for some time now that we oppose third party intervention in the area whether it be from the United States or other sources