

CENTRAL AMERICAN PEACE PROCESS

BACKGROUND ON TERMS

CIAV:

- International Support and Verification Commission (known by its Spanish acronym)
- The Tela Declaration of Central American Presidents of August 7 calls for the establishment of this new commission, under joint UN and OAS auspices, to supervise the voluntary demobilization and repatriation or relocation of Nicaraguan contra forces based in Honduras.
- It is anticipated that the CIAV would be staffed mainly by civilians, although it would also require a military mechanism for collecting the weapons of contras who agree to demobilization.

ONUCA:

- United Nations Observer Group in Central America (known by its Spanish acronym).
- The Tela Declaration calls for the deployment of ONUCA military observers to serve as a regional security verification mechanism. Its primary mandate at this time would be to monitor the Honduran/Nicaraguan frontier.
- Two Canadian military officers will participate in an ONUCA operational reconnaissance team visiting Central America during September 1989. Canada has indicated that it will be prepared to give positive consideration to any future request by the Security Council to participate in an ONUCA Observer Group.

"INTERNATIONAL PEACE-KEEPING FORCE":

- The Tela Declaration notes the reiteration by Honduras of its request for an "international peace-keeping force" to prevent irregular forces (whether Nicaraguan contras or Salvadoran FMLN guerrillas) from using its territory as a base for attacks on other states.
- The Honduran proposal, which would entail a force separate and distinct from either ONUCA or CIAV, has not been endorsed by the other Central American republics. Moreover, the stipulation by Honduras that such a force might need to undertake coercive action against irregular forces runs counter to normal peace-keeping criteria for the UN. Deployment of armed UN peace-keeping force is normally conditional on a prior cessation of hostilities between conflicting parties.

ONUVE:

- United Nations Election Verification Mission in Nicaragua (known by its Spanish acronym)
- In response to an invitation by the government of Nicaragua, the UN Secretary General has agreed to establish ONUVE to observe and verify the Nicaraguan electoral process leading to presidential and congressional elections on 25 February 1990.
- Canada is prepared to consider a request to participate in ONUVE, whose creation we support.
- Canada is extending bilateral technical assistance to the Supreme Electoral Council of Nicaragua, to help ensure that an adequate electoral infrastructure is created.