

## BACKGROUND BRIEFING ON THE CONTADORA PROCESS

The Canadian Government is deeply concerned about the tensions in Central America and continues to express its willingness to help find solutions to the critical problems of the region. In his speech to the Inter-American Press Association last year, the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Brian Mulroney, described the Contadora initiative as "the best instrument for reconciliation in Central America". The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, has expressed Canada's strong support for the Contadora process in public statements within Canada and abroad. Mr. Clark reaffirmed this position during his visits to Argentina, Uruguay and Venezuela in 1986. In a message to the Foreign Ministers of the Contadora and Lima Support Groups, and the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of American States, on the occasion of their joint mission to Central America in January 1987, Mr. Clark stated that the efforts of the Contadora Group "have sustained the hope of the international community for a lasting solution to the crisis in Central America". As well, the Canadian delegation made a strong statement in support of Contadora at the 1986 United Nations General Assembly.

As Prime Minister Mulroney recently stated, Canada is "not in favour of exporting revolutions, any more than we approve of third party intervention anywhere in Central America, whoever the third party may be and regardless of its legitimate interests in the area. We regret the extension of East-West disagreements into the area and we do not approve of any country supplying arms to any faction in the area".

Canada has also made a practical contribution to the Contadora process. In 1985 and 1986, the Canadian Government, at the request of the Contadora governments, prepared a series of written comments on the security and control provisions of the Contadora Draft Act.