

Central America - SSEA Interview with Terry
Milewski for a future JOURNAL
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Milewski: Mr. MacEachen, basically I'd like to start with a statement of Canada's attitude to the conflict in Central America and particularly, a summary, if you would, of the Government's attitude as to how a peaceful regional settlement might be arrived at.

MacEachen: My view is that an important step in reconciling the situation in Central America is to have all military presences from foreign countries removed. That would include military advisers, armaments, soldiers, from foreign countries that are presently in Central America. In the absence of that development, it seems to me difficult to contemplate how these countries can on their own begin the process of reconciliation and rebuilding their economies, and moving towards more democratic arrangements. I think that is an important element and I've also stated that ultimately the stability of Central America will depend more on social and economic improvements rather than on military solutions. I doubt very much if in the long term the military approach is of much value in solving the problems that are present in Central America.

Milewski: In that connection, sir, you've described as positive and useful the Ortega proposals, which include a ban on military exercises involving foreign powers. Arising out of what you just said, do you mean specifically that Canada opposes or views with alarm, or what, the proposed military exercises in Honduras with the American Forces?

MacEachen: We have supported the proposals that have emerged from the Contadora Group. We have supported them because it makes a lot of sense for the countries involved in the region to attempt to reach peaceful solutions and for that reason we have supported their efforts and will continue to support their efforts. The President of the United States did say in April, I believe, in an address to the Congress, that his country

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