

These issues are inextricably, but not wholly, linked to the peace process in Central America. This process is, without question, the most important regional development of the past five years. It was as surprising as it was welcome that the five Presidents could make significant concessions and create the collective political will which led to the Guatemalan Agreement. I can say to you that we are also agreeably surprised that, despite many serious obstacles, the momentum of this initiative has been sustained. We are all delighted that it has been so eloquently recognized by the conferring of the Nobel Peace Prize on its principal architect, President Arias of Costa Rica. I believe that the other four Presidents all share in that achievement.

Your government has made an impressive contribution to the process over the past several weeks. In our view, these are real commitments which carry for you, your government and the people of Nicaragua real political implications - the reopening of an uncensored La Prensa, a voice again for Radio Catolica, and the opening of a dialogue with the political opposition. We encourage you to move toward the original goals of the Sandinista revolution, including a commitment to political pluralism and non-intervention in the internal affairs of other countries. We hope that the resolve that you have shown in these recent measures will continue, will be steady, and will increase if and when, as we hope, the sound of war recedes.

I note with satisfaction that El Salvador and Guatemala have entered into direct discussions with the guerilla movements in their countries; and that despite some misgivings Honduras has now established a National Reconciliation Commission. Another hopeful sign was the repatriation ten days ago of over 4,000 Salvadoran refugees from their camp in Honduras.

There has been progress. And there is no doubt a palpable will on the part of the peoples of Central America, torn, impoverished and fatigued by war and dislocation, to support the efforts which their leaders are making.

As I said to the United Nations General Assembly last month, Canada is prepared to contribute to the peace process in any direct and practical way open to us. We support the process and we have provided, and will provide, more than rhetorical support. Canada has given over \$40 million in development assistance to Nicaragua over the past five years through official bilateral and international programs and also