

their leaders may be. By the same token, foreign intervention of any party will not assist the objectives of peace, stability, social and economic progress. If serious efforts are not made to open political dialogue within and among states, if military solutions are pursued at the expense of accommodating social and economic change, the results within states will be political oppression, violence, and misery. Among states the result will be dangerous confrontation.

Canada is ready to assist the parties to promote or facilitate political dialogue. Although we do not seek to involve ourselves directly unless requested to do so, our message to all who seek to restore peace in the region is to reverse the pattern of military escalation so that the social change, economic progress and the exercise of freedom will not be stifled.

Serious as the current situation in Central America is, it is not, of course, one that is common to the whole of Latin America. Canada is very alive to the fact that the other countries of the region are getting on with the tasks of political and economic development.

Latin America is varied and complex; its potential is enormous. It is clear that the interests of Canada are more closely linked with those of the hemisphere than ever before. We can promote our interests only by strengthening and enhancing our political and economic relations with the countries of the region. We intend to do this.