



communiqué

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SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
BACKS CARABALLEDA DECLARATION

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today expressed Canada's firm support for the most recent initiative of the Contadora Group - the "Declaration of Caraballeda". On January 12, 1986, the Foreign Ministers of the Contadora and Contadora Support Group countries met in Caraballeda Venezuela. The result of this meeting was the issuance of the "Declaration of Caraballeda" which calls upon the countries of Central America to take specific measures to both reduce current tensions and to advance the Contadora process towards the signature of a comprehensive peace agreement in Central America. The Central American countries expressed their support for the Declaration in the "Guatemala Agreement" which was signed by the Central American Foreign Ministers in Guatemala on January 16, 1986 on the occasion of the inauguration of the new President of Guatemala.

Canada continues to regard the Contadora process as the most promising avenue in the search for a solution to the conflict in Central America. Mr. Clark indicated that the "Declaration of Caraballeda" will serve to create a more favourable environment for the Contadora process, and noted that it is particularly significant that the Declaration has received the acceptance of all five Central American countries. Mr. Clark said that, while the signature of a peace agreement in Central America is not imminent, the Caraballeda meeting represents a positive step forward in the process.