

# Flora MacDonald accuses feds of ignoring El Salvador issue



VANCOUVER (CUP) — The federal government should speak out against human right violations in El Salvador and abandon its meek stance, conservative MP and former external affairs minister Flora MacDonald charged September 21.

"The Canadian government should do everything it can to prevent armed intervention and speak out," said the Kingston MP.

"The government should

recognize the human rights violations taking place and realize that it's not a super power conflict," said MacDonald.

She said the federal government should also join the Mexican and French governments in recognizing the leading opposition group, the FDR.

"Canada should help bring about a cessation of hostilities. We should help bring about a fair and just election to El Salvador and recognize, in the process, the opposition parties

in the country (such as the FDR)."

MacDonald says she is convinced El Salvador is not currently and never should be the site of a "super power" conflict. "El Salvador is a mass movement of people trying to throw off oppression."

She added that after talking with experts in Mexico she believes that the military junta is responsible for the recent escalation of violence in El Salvador and did not meet anyone who supported the Reagan administration's White Paper's claims of Soviet intervention there.

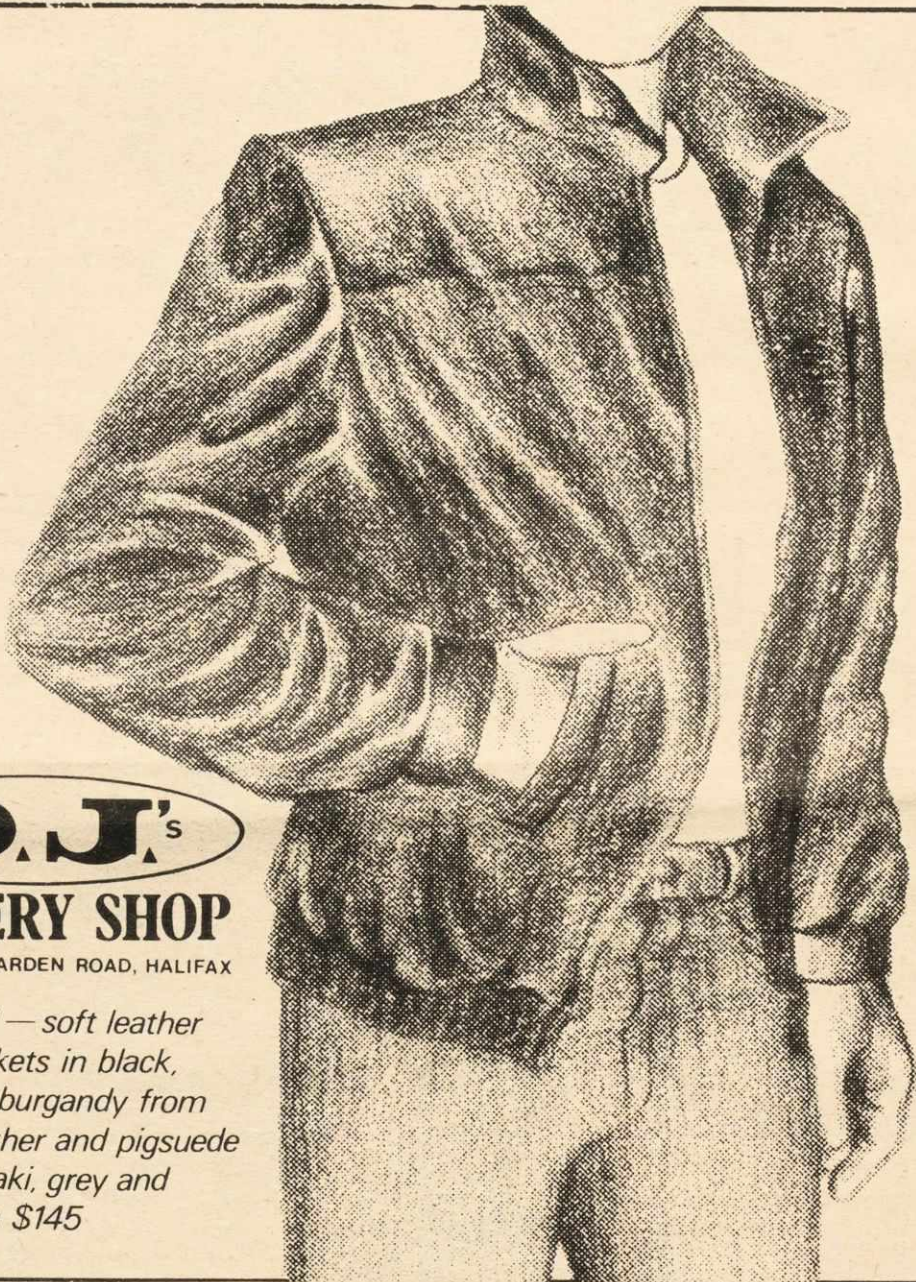
The deterioration in Canadian - U.S. relations is marked, but El Salvador is not a major contributor to the breakdown,

MacDonald said.

"The government, instead of meekly following the Americans, should act with the United Nations or other international organizations to see if they can bring about a cessation of hostilities."

Although MacDonald and five other MPs were recently labeled "communists" by an American diplomat because they refused to support the U.S. intervention in El Salvador, she maintains this is not indicative of the Reagan administration's position on the war.

"One individual said 'communist,' not Reagan," MacDonald added. "There are some individuals in Washington who think that way, but that's not the way you treat your friends."



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