

A U.S. Congressman commented that a recent Congressional resolution specifically prohibits the use of arms to overthrow the Nicaraguan government. He went on to say that the need was for a long-range plan launched by a hemispheric conference on security matters. It might establish an international peacekeeping force in Central America and then draw up plans for reform and development. Another Congressman said that efforts were underway to launch the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) but that this region had a long history to overcome and an explosive birth rate. He expressed the hope that the CBI legislation establishing a one way free trade zone would get through Congress.

In response to a comment by a Canadian delegate that the U.S. should stand for change in Latin America, a U.S. Senator replied that he was provoked to reply "Vive le Québec Libre." A Republican Senator then concluded the discussion by remarking that Administration policy had not been adequately defended. He noted that there were large arms shipments into El Salvador and that the U.S. would never countenance this violation of the Monroe Doctrine. He noted that Costa Rica had no army because the U.S. had guaranteed its security. Similarly, he argued, the U.S. must keep its word to El Salvador. The U.S. should not escalate the conflict but it must stand behind the government of El Salvador as long as its people do.