

News Release

Communiqué

Department of  
External  
Affairs



Ministère des  
Affaires  
extérieures

No. 264

October 30, 1989.

STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN NICARAGUA

(SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA, OCTOBER 28, 1989)

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, expressed dismay and concern with any intention of the President of Nicaragua to end the ceasefire between Government forces and the Contras. Mr. Clark stated that the "ceasefire was an integral part of the peace process in Central America" and any backsliding over any of its provisions would be regrettable. Of particular concern to Canada was the impact of the President's intentions on the possible deployment of the UN Verification Force. "The Force represents a very positive development and any action that would undermine its success is of concern", Mr. Clark said.

Mr. Clark stated that it was unfortunate that the controversy over the ceasefire occurred during the Summit of Hemispheric Leaders where a spirit of co-operation, dialogue and accommodation was strongly prevalent. Mr. Clark expressed the hope that the President of Nicaragua would reconsider and continue to participate fully in, and support, the peace process. The people of Nicaragua are now engaging in the democratic process of electing a government and Mr. Clark stated that "the process must continue".

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Secretary of State  
for  
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État  
aux  
Affaires extérieures

Canada