

in this kind of operation and our knowledge is known so presumeably in due course if it materializes, they'll come to us and they'll say we think you might provide the following and we will listen to that request.

15:55 6 October, 1983

Sinclair Stevens Scrum

S. Stevens: This is a very important move that they have under consideration. We feel they should not only come to Parliament to explain what the parameters are, of what we may be called upon to perform, but secondly to seek the approval of Parliament. I would think their hand would be much stronger, instead of just acting as an executive, to have the Parliament of Canada either approve or disapprove the sending of observers or troops into a peacekeeping situation in that area.

Q.: What about the principle of the thing?

S. Stevens: Well, as you know, it's been I think a very cardinal thing in Canadian diplomacy to help where we can in a peacekeeping sense. The situation in Central America is still very uncertain, and I can only say that it is odd that the same government that was reluctant to send observers to witness an election in one of those countries is now seriously considering actually sending in observers possibly peacekeeping troops into the same area.

Q.: Do you think its premature ?

S.S.: I think its certainly premature unless we're given much more information as to what the Government feels would warrant this move on the part of Canada. For example I'm curious as to who did the Minister of State for External Affairs speak in New York ? The newspaper accounts said he met with the representatives of Nicaragua, Cuba, and Guatemala. What about the other three countries, what about Honduras, Costa Rica and El Salvador ? These are the unanswered things which certainly weren't satisfied to my satisfaction in the reply by the Minister of State for International Trade.