

extends beyond the domestic effects of authoritarianism. Departures from professed non-alignment, and support for insurgencies in neighbouring countries only adds to the risks of violence and impedes progress toward peaceful change. For Canada, no ideology justifies the export of violence.

The process of social change and economic progress in both El Salvador and Nicaragua cannot achieve success in an atmosphere of military confrontation. Canada, therefore, fully endorses the regional peace initiative sponsored by the Contadora Group of Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela. This attempt to find regional solutions to regional problems deserves the support of all concerned. We also think that at an appropriate stage these talks should be supplemented by direct dialogue between the United States and Nicaragua, between the United States and Cuba, and between Nicaragua and Honduras and Costa Rica. Leaders of all these countries have declared their willingness to engage in such discussions. The time has come when talking about talks should be replaced by serious discussion.

We believe that escalation can be reversed, that the crisis in Central America need not move inexorably towards greater political danger. We believe that military responses and the export of violence will not serve the interest of the peoples of Central America, no matter what the political orientations of