

principles to a workable solution is an enormous task.

We are, I think, at a key juncture. The way in which the crisis in Central America is "managed" internationally over the next few months will be very important. The players involved cannot afford to lock themselves into rigid positions. Above all, moves should not be taken which limit the options of countries in Central America and the Caribbean and which have the end result of driving them towards the Soviet bloc. That particular outcome may well be the goal of certain elements in the region. By taking approaches which equate left-wing internal régimes automatically with Soviet domination, we may bring about a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Foreign policy is by its nature long term. We must be concerned about developments in Central America not just for their own sake, but because they may well come to have an impact on this country. For example, Canada is developing important political and economic ties with Mexico and Venezuela, two countries in very close proximity to the area of conflict. We must take a long-term view and recognize that we are increasingly living in a world in which the shock waves from events elsewhere have a tendency to travel further and faster than ever before.

In closing let me again reiterate that Canada is ready to play an active role in seeking solutions. I made this clear two weeks ago in New York to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the American Secretary of State and the Foreign Ministers of Mexico, Venezuela and Colombia. The principles which I have just outlined will guide my continuing discussions with foreign ministers in the region in order to promote a solution aimed at lasting peace. Thank you.

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