

PUT CANADA'S 35 YEAR EXPERIENCE OF PEACEKEEPING AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE CONTADORA GROUP. THIS WAS FURTHER DEVELOPED BY THE THEN SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS IN HIS APRIL, 1984 VISIT TO THE REGION. SUBSEQUENTLY CANADA PROVIDED A SERIES OF WRITTEN CONTRIBUTIONS ON VERIFICATION AND CONTROL AT THE REQUEST OF THE CONTADORA COUNTRIES. THE EMERGENCE OF THE HISTORIC ESQUIPULAS II ACCORD WAS OF COURSE WARMLY WELCOMED BY THE CURRENT CANADIAN GOVERNMENT. OUR LONG STANDING OFFER OF ASSISTANCE IN VERIFYING THE SECURITY COMMITMENTS ARISING FROM THE GUATEMALA AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REPEATEDLY RECONFIRMED BY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE JOE CLARK, THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. IT WAS NOT ONLY OUR SUBSTANTIAL EXPERTISE AND INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN PEACEKEEPING THAT LED US TO THIS ROLE. IT WAS DEEP DESIRE AMONG THE CANADIAN PEOPLE TO SEE PEACE AND STABILITY IN CENTRAL AMERICA. CANADIAN POLICY CLEARLY REFLECTS THIS CONCERN.

THE PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA ON MARCH 28 THIS YEAR IN A SPEECH IN NEW YORK UNDERScoreD CANADA'S COMMITMENT TO PEACE IN THE REGION:

"CANADA STANDS READY TO UNDERTAKE A PEACE SUPERVISORY ROLE ANYWHERE IN THE REGION WHERE IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL,