



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
REITERATES CANADA'S SUPPORT FOR CONTADORA

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, has reiterated Canada's strong support for the Contadora Process. Mr. Clark has sent the following message to the Foreign Ministers of the countries that make up the Contadora (Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela) and Lima Support (Argentina, Brazil, Peru and Uruguay) Groups:

"I am deeply concerned, as I know you must be, that so much dedicated effort directed to creating an atmosphere and finding a formula for peaceful reconciliation in Central America has not yet achieved success. I wish to assure you that the Government of Canada maintains its support for the Contadora Initiative and its respect for the skill and energy with which you have pursued the search for peace and cooperation.

"The need for a comprehensive agreement and for a workable and effective verification process remains urgent and essential. However, while this goal remains to be realized, the process of dialogue maintained by you and your colleagues has lowered tensions at critical points and has helped to keep open the lines of communication between the countries of the region. These are important achievements and a credit to those involved.

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"I fear, as I know that you do, the increased militarization and other dangers that would ensue if Contadora is dismantled and dialogue obstructed.

"Despite the many setbacks, I hope that you and your colleagues will be able to maintain the Contadora Process with the same remarkable tenacity and resilience that you have shown in the past."