

Director of
Central
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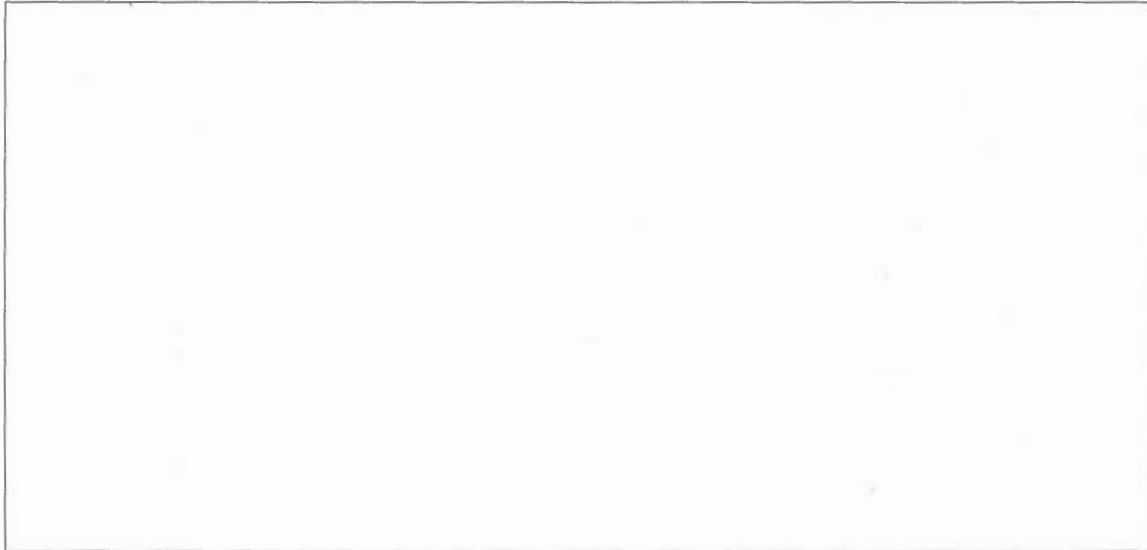
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WESTERN EUROPE - CANADA: Attitudes on El Salvador

The West German and Canadian Foreign Ministers have said that they will send observers for the election in El Salvador in March, but other major West European governments probably will do so only if Salvadoran leftists participate and the threat of violence is not high. [Redacted]

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The West German Government, which has decided to send an ambassador to El Salvador, wants to encourage the junta's interest in democratic procedures and to avoid friction with the US. The Canadian Minister of External Affairs has stated in Parliament that his government is prepared to send observers and that his government also has offered to mediate between the junta and the insurgents to help assure a fair election. [Redacted]

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The Canadian suggestion reflects the concern of many NATO members and other West European countries that all major political factions in El Salvador participate in the election. Even countries such as the UK, Belgium, and Italy that are sympathetic to the need for observers believe that if the left boycotts the election and violence is not curbed, the procedure will have little validity and they will be vulnerable to charges at home of favoring the junta. [Redacted]

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