

Permanent Mission of Canada to the
Organization of American States



Mission permanente du Canada auprès
de l'Organisation des États américains

501 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001
September 15, 2003

H.E. Ambassador Luigi Einaudi
Assistant Secretary General
Organization of American States
Washington, D.C. 20006

Excellency:

I have the honour to address Your Excellency regarding your letter of June 27, 2003, in which you invited the Government of Canada to become a member of a Group of Friends of Belize and Guatemala. I have the pleasure of informing you that Canada has accepted the invitation to join the Group of Friends, with the goal of supporting efforts to mediate the Belize-Guatemala territorial differendum.

It has been Canada's position that the OAS facilitation process has offered a constructive opportunity to resolve the territorial dispute. The political and operational support of the Group of Friends will be key to maintaining the parties' commitment to this process.

As you are aware, Canada has provided significant political and financial support to the OAS effort, including \$25,000 in June 2001 for the mediation process and \$50,000 in June 2003 for the establishment of an OAS Office in the Belize-Guatemala border zone. However, our decision to participate in the Group of Friends does not imply future funding to the Belize-Guatemala sub-fund of the Fund for Peace. Your office has confirmed that the invitation to join the Group of Friends does not entail an expectation that Canada will provide additional financial contributions.

Canada has demonstrated a strong interest in the peaceful resolution of the territorial differendum between Belize and Guatemala and we remain committed to working towards such a resolution. It is my hope that our participation in the Group of Friends will bring useful support to the parties in their efforts to reach a final conclusion to the dispute.

Please accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Durand'.

Paul D. Durand
Ambassador, Permanent
Representative

Canada