

Canadian Foundation for the Americas
(FOCAL)

Dept. of Foreign Affairs
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FEB 23 2006
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Regional conference on
"Governance in Haiti: Strengthening the State and Democratic Development"

held in Ottawa
November 2-3, 1996

**GOVERNANCE IN HAITI:
Strengthening the States and
Democratic Development
November 1996
Canadian Foundation for the Americas**

Organization

The Canadian Foundation for the Americas, in November 1996, a conference on the topic of Governance in Haiti. The purpose of the conference was to allow participants to discuss issues relating to strengthening the state and democratic development. The presentations and discussion periods that followed were organized along three axes:

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- Law, Order, and Democracy which covered the role of the current United Nations (UN) mission, the role of the young *Police Nationale d'Haiti* (PNH), the evolution and purpose of the current justice reform, as well as the overall role of the State in this area of activity.
- The Economy, Strengthening the State and Democracy which covered the current economic situation, allowing for the identification of sectors crucial to Haiti's economic development, as well as the links between the State and the economy, and between democratic and economic development.
- Social Development and Democracy which covered development priorities in the area of health and social services, the role of NGOs and their relationship with the Haitian government, as well as possible mandates and/or actions for the State in this area.

Presentations were held both inside Haiti as well as outside, namely Canada and the United States. The keynote speaker was Minister Claudette Wercheig, former Prime Minister of Haiti under President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Madeline Wercheig provided an excellent introduction to the political scene.

The agenda of the conference had been designed to ensure the widest participation of opinions would be presented at every point. In most cases, views were conflicting which led to insightful debates and discussions.