

News Release

Secretary of
State for
External Affairs



Communiqué

Secrétaire
d'État aux
Affaires
extérieures

No. 193

October 12, 1993

BEATTY CONDEMNS OBSTRUCTION OF GOVERNORS ISLAND AGREEMENT

External Affairs Minister Perrin Beatty today condemned the obstructionist tactics of the so-called "attachés" who have blockaded the harbour at Port au Prince, delaying the arrival of some 250 members of the United Nations Mission in Haiti, including 25 Canadians.

"These tactics are misguided. The objective of the UN mission is to help reconstruct the country. The Haitian military is party to the Governors Island Agreement and is obliged to facilitate the deployment of the UN mission, which is an important step in the process," Mr. Beatty said. "Canada holds the Haitian armed forces responsible for the safety of all UN personnel." The Minister noted that there were clear links between the "attachés" and the military.

Mr. Beatty also emphasized that the UN Security Council had provided for the reimposition of sanctions should those party to the Governors Island Agreement fail to fulfil their obligations. "In light of these developments in Haiti, we would certainly be ready to reimpose sanctions should the Security Council so decide," he said.

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