

Haitian President Aristide to Visit Canada

January 20, 1994, No. 6

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet announced that the President of Haiti, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, will visit Canada from January 24 to 29. "I look forward to President Aristide's visit to Canada. It will give us the opportunity to solicit his views on how Canada, in concert with the international community, can help drive forward Haiti's return to democracy and his reinstatement as President," Mr. Ouellet said.

STATEMENTS:

The Government's position on the broad question of the place of peacekeeping in Canada's foreign and defence policies is well-known. We are on record as stating we intend to "strengthen Canada's leadership role in international peacekeeping." In the upcoming foreign and defence policy reviews we will be examining a variety of ways in which this can be done, many of which were elaborated in the "Red Book." While all members of this House are, I am sure, familiar with the Red Book, an illustrative list of these ideas would include a re-examination of the notion of stand-by forces for peacekeeping, a look at the training of peacekeepers, and a look at our procurement policies.... Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table this motion, seconded by my colleague the Minister of National Defence, calling for a debate on peacekeeping. In particular the Government seeks the views of this House in two general areas: Canada's future in peacekeeping, and our future commitment to Bosnia.

From an Address by the Honourable André Ouellet, Minister of Foreign Affairs, at the Parliamentary Debate on Peacekeeping (Ottawa, Ontario, January 25, 1994, No. 94/2)

FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE CANADA:

Minister Announces Terms of Five-Year Equalization Renewal

January 21, 1994, No. 94-010

The Minister of Finance, the Honourable Paul Martin, informed provincial and territorial ministers of finance and treasurers meeting in Montreal of the way in which the Government will propose to Parliament that the Equalization program will be renewed for five years beginning April 1, 1994. Mr. Martin said, "I told my colleagues that I will renew Equalization in a fiscally responsible manner that balances both the needs of Canadians in every province, and the need of the seven provinces which receive Equalization for planning stability over time." Current forecasts show Equalization payments will grow from \$8 billion in 1993-94 to \$10.4 billion by 1998-99. This represents average annual growth of more than five percent. "These increases do not establish any precedent for other expenditures," the Minister said. "Equalization is very different from other major federal transfer programs. It is the fundamental program for reducing fiscal disparities among the provinces."

Tax Treaty Negotiations: The Republic of Mauritius

January 20, 1994, No. 94-009

Finance Minister Paul Martin announced that negotiations for the conclusion of an income tax treaty between Canada and the Republic of Mauritius will be held in January 1994. The purpose of this release is to ensure that persons whose interests are affected have an opportunity to inform the government of any particular issues of double taxation which might be resolved in Canada's tax treaties. The Government is particularly interested in learning of any difficulties encountered by Canadians under the Mauritius tax system, so that these issues may be taken into account in preparing for negotiations. Comments can be sent to the Department of Finance, Tax Policy and Legislation Branch, L'Esplanade Laurier, 140 O'Connor St., 17th Floor, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0G5.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

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| January 27-30, 1994: | World Economic Forum (Davos, Switzerland) |
| March 1994: | Inter-American Development Bank Annual Meeting (Guadalajara) |
| June 5-11, 1994: | OAS Annual Assembly (Belem, Brazil) |

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