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HOWEVER, THE LAND BORDER WITH THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC REMAINS KEY. SANCTIONS VIOLATIONS ACROSS THIS BORDER SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE THE IMPACT OF THE MEASURES WE ARE IMPOSING. THEY ARE UNACCEPTABLE AND MUST STOP.

WE WELCOME THE DECISION BY PRESIDENT BALAGUER TO ESTABLISH A BORDER CONTROL COMMISSION AIMED AT ENDING THESE VIOLATIONS. WE STRONGLY SUPPORT THE REQUEST BY THE DOMINICAN AUTHORITIES FOR UN ASSISTANCE IN THIS REGARD. IN OUR VIEW, INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF INTERNATIONAL MONITORS, WOULD HELP ENSURE THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC CAN EFFECTIVELY CARRY OUT ITS RESPONSIBILITIES. CANADA STANDS READY TO HELP IN THESE EFFORTS.

MR. PRESIDENT,

SOME HAVE ARGUED THAT TOUGHER SANCTIONS WOULD ONLY AGGRAVATE THE ABYSMAL HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN HAITI. LET THERE BE NO MISTAKE: IT IS THE FAILURE OF THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES TO FULFIL THEIR COMMITMENTS WHICH IS SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PLIGHT OF THE HAITIAN POPULATION. AS LONG AS THEY REMAIN, THERE IS LITTLE HOPE THAT THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION WILL IMPROVE.

SINCE LAST NOVEMBER, PRESIDENT ARISTIDE HAS CALLED FOR COMPREHENSIVE SANCTIONS. THEY ARE THE NECESSARY PRICE TO PAY TO RID HAITI ONCE AND FOR ALL OF THE SOURCE OF ITS SUFFERING. WE FULLY SHARE THE PRESIDENT'S HOPE THAT THESE MEASURES WILL BE IN PLACE FOR AS SHORT A TIME AS POSSIBLE. THIS DEPENDS ENTIRELY ON THE ACTIONS OF THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES.

WE ARE VERY CONCERNED BY THE SUFFERING INFLICTED ON THE HAITIAN PEOPLE BY THE INTRANSIGENCE OF THESE AUTHORITIES. CANADA HAS PROVIDED OVER 35 MILLION DOLLARS IN HUMANITARIAN AID SINCE THE 1991 COUP D'ETAT TO HELP MEET THE NEEDS OF THE MOST VULNERABLE SECTORS OF THE POPULATION. WE WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF ESSENTIAL FOODSTUFFS AND MEDICINES.

UNTIL NOW THE DELIVERY OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN LARGELY UNIMPEDED. MY GOVERNMENT STRONGLY WARNS AGAINST ANY ATTEMPT TO INTERFERE WITH THE DELIVERY OF THIS ASSISTANCE OR TO ENDANGER THE PERSONAL SECURITY AND SAFETY OF THOSE INVOLVED IN THESE EFFORTS.

MR. PRESIDENT,

OUR CENTRAL MESSAGE HAS NOT CHANGED - THE HAITIAN MILITARY AUTHORITIES MUST HONOUR THEIR COMMITMENTS AND PRESIDENT ARISTIDE MUST RETURN TO HAITI. CANADA REMAINS FULLY COMMITTED TO REALIZING THESE OBJECTIVES. MY GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT THE INTERNATIONAL