

News Release

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MEETING OF CARICOM AND CARIBBEAN

HEADS OF STATE REGARDING HAITI

The Minister for External Relations, the Honourable Monique Landry, today indicated that she had been very interested to hear the results of the discussions held by the Heads of State of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) at their meeting in Bridgetown on January 6. The Minister added that the Canadian government shared the concerns expressed by the leaders of the Caribbean countries regarding the inadequate preparations for the January 17 elections, and she endorsed their appeal to the Haitian authorities to take the necessary measures to remedy the situation.

The Minister also indicated that Canada did not plan to suspend its aid to Haiti because this aid was intended primarily to meet the basic needs of the most impoverished people and did not in any way constitute financial support to the Haitian government. She added that specific measures to monitor the aid funds had been established some years ago to take into account the Haitian situation and constant follow-up was provided to avoid any possibility of misappropriation of funds. Finally, she indicated that valid development initiatives could only be long term in nature and that any interruption in the delivery of such aid could have serious consequences for a people with one of the lowest standards of living in the world.

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Minister for  
External  
Relations

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