



news release

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CANADA CONDEMNS INTRANSIGENCE OF HAITI'S MILITARY COMMAND

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today condemned the refusal by Haitian military leader Lieutenant-General Cédras to meet a senior military/civilian delegation from Canada, France, the United States and Venezuela. Canada was represented by Rear Admiral Kenneth J. Summers and Canada's Chargé d'affaires in Haiti, Louis Robert Daigle.

"The General's refusal to meet the mission demonstrates once again that the Haitian military is clearly responsible for the continuation of the Haitian crisis. It is the military that reneged on commitments made under the Governors Island Agreement and they must take the blame for the situation that has led to the imposition of sanctions," Mr. Ouellet said.

The mission -- representing the group known as the Friends of the United Nations Secretary-General on Haiti -- was to have delivered a strongly worded message conveying the unanimous views of the four countries as well as the Special Envoy of the Secretaries General of the United Nations and the Organization of American States.

The aide-memoire that was to have been presented to Cédras by the mission today in Port-au-Prince was left with his staff instead. The document outlines clearly what actions must be undertaken by the military before sanctions will be lifted. A second aide-memoire was presented in Washington to exiled Haitian leader, President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Texts of both are attached.

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