

field work closely with the government in exile to determine the most effective priorities.

The government in exile, while it continues to receive recognition, needs more than recognition. It needs resources and assistance to operate outside Haiti, to keep the flame of hope burning brightly for people within Haiti who are being gunned down and murdered by the thugs in power now.

We as Canadians can help to provide those resources just as we have done to the government in exile of Burma and provided resources to keep that hope alive; the hope of Aung San Suu Kyi and others that that illegitimate government as well will finally be overthrown.

In conclusion, I welcome this opportunity to again reinforce in this House the concern of my colleagues in the New Democratic Party and I believe of many people in Canada.

[Translation]

The Haitian community and especially the people of Quebec have been strong supporters of the Haitian struggle for democracy.

We support this motion and we want to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs to do a lot more at the United Nations and the OAS to tighten up the embargo and put an end to this attack on democracy. After restoration of the government that was democratically elected in Haiti two years ago next week, our first challenge will be to restore economic and social justice. This is exactly what President Jean-Bertrand Aristide had tried to do, and that is exactly why the elite, the *tontons macoutes* and the army got rid of this government. For the sake of justice and democracy, we are asking this government to do far more for the people of Haiti.

• (1710)

[English]

**Mr. Benno Friesen (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak on this motion. I find it a little strange that we should be called at this hour of the day, this hour of the week and this hour of the year to speak on this motion and to speak to an amendment that was brought forward by the opposition to legislation to which it agreed when we passed it earlier this year. Now we are debating the implementation of this measure.

### Government Orders

I recall that when we debated this legislation in the House it was a very short debate because all members on all sides agreed that the legislation regarding embargoes that Canada could impose needed to be strengthened. We realized that during the gulf war even though Canada, under the legislation that had been there heretofore, would impose embargoes, they were not effective ones. Therefore, the government took the initiative to draft legislation that would make them more effective so we could deal with situations like the gulf.

The opposition parties agreed to that legislation. As I recall, there were about two or three speakers in that debate from each party and that was it. Then when it went to committee, it was a short meeting, we heard several witnesses and it was a non-contentious bill. It was passed easily in the House. As I remember, it was not even with a recorded division, it was with a voice vote.

Today, the last week that the House is sitting, when there is so much important legislation that the opposition also agrees is very important, we are called upon to debate an amendment to legislation to which it has already agreed. I find that passing strange.

On July 7, 1992 His Excellency the Governor General in Council approved the above named regulations which we are purportedly debating today. The purpose was to reinforce the economic and commercial isolation of the Republic of Haiti. It would be too bad, it would be a tragedy if because of this debate the public watching the proceedings here today were to assume that nothing had happened by way of Canadian activity in Haiti since the time we passed that legislation. There has been a lot of work going on and I think members opposite would agree on that.

The intent of the Governor General's decision was to complete a series of previous administrative measures enabling the Government of Canada to apply Resolutions 191 and 392 of the Organization of American States, adopted October 3, 1991 and May 17, 1992.

The resolutions were unanimously adopted by the 34 member countries of the Organization of American States in reaction to the *coup d'état* of September 30, 1991 that forcibly ejected Haiti's first ever democratically elected government. As an institution, the Organization of American States, with Canada making a notable contribution, played a key part in the process of Haiti's transition from a military dictatorship to the free elections of December 16, 1990, two years ago.