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REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ON HAITI

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today expressed his appreciation to the Parliamentary Group on Haiti for their report. The report was presented to Mr. Clark on April 27. It was tabled in the House of Commons today by Mr. Jean-Guy Hudon, Chairman of the Parliamentary Group.

Mr. Clark welcomed the report as an important element in Canada's review of its relations with Haiti, and said he was pleased to note that the Group was unanimous in its recommendations. The Minister for External Relations and International Development, the Honourable Monique Landry, concurred with Mr. Clark's comments and she expressed a very strong interest in the recommendations of the report dealing with development assistance.

The principal recommendations of the report include the continuation of diplomatic relations with Haiti, the continuation of current development programs and the resumption of planning for new aid programs. The report also recommends that Haiti be designated as a priority country for CIDA and that the annual bilateral consultations between Canada and Haiti include discussions of management of the economy, political and social stability, and the periodic examination of the human rights situation in Haiti.

The Ministers expressed general agreement with the report's recommendations. They said that diplomatic relations with Haiti would be maintained and that development assistance programs would continue.

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Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures