

14/19

MR. PRESIDENT,

ALLOW ME TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR ASSUMPTION OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE MONTH OF MAY AND TO THANK YOUR PREDECESSOR, AMBASSADOR KEATING, FOR HIS ENERGETIC AND EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL.

MR. PRESIDENT,

THIRTY ONE MONTHS AFTER HAITI'S DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED PRESIDENT, THE REVEREND JEAN-BERTRAND ARISTIDE, WAS OVERTHROWN, THE SITUATION IN HAITI IS BLEAK. EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT THE GOVERNOR'S ISLAND AGREEMENT, NEGOTIATED ALMOST ONE YEAR AGO, AIMED AT RETURNING PRESIDENT ARISTIDE AND RESTORING DEMOCRACY IN HAITI ARE AT AN IMPASSE.

IN THE MEANTIME, HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES REMAIN WIDESPREAD AND HAVE ESCALATED IN RECENT WEEKS. ARMED CIVILIAN GROUPS INTIMIDATE FELLOW HAITIANS WITH IMPUNITY. POLITICAL AND CIVIL RIGHTS ARE DENIED. THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION CONTINUES TO DETERIORATE. THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE 1991 COUP D'ETAT REMAIN IN PLACE, PRESIDENT ARISTIDE HAS NOT RETURNED AND THE HAITIAN PEOPLE CONTINUE TO SUFFER. IN SHORT, THE PROMISE OF STABILITY AND DEMOCRACY, ENVISAGED IN THE GOVERNOR'S ISLAND AGREEMENT, HAS NOT BEEN REALIZED.

MY GOVERNMENT CONCLUDED, MANY MONTHS AGO, THAT STRONGER MEASURES WERE NEEDED TO RESOLVE THIS IMPASSE. COMPLIANCE BY THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES WITH THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE GOVERNOR'S ISLAND AGREEMENT REMAIN KEY TO RESOLVING THE HAITIAN CRISIS. EXISTING SANCTIONS, REIMPOSED IN OCTOBER, HAVE PROVED INSUFFICIENT TO THIS END.

IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT CANADA IS COSPONSORING THE DRAFT RESOLUTION NOW BEFORE YOU. THIS RESOLUTION IMPOSES BOTH A COMPREHENSIVE COMMERCIAL EMBARGO AND A NUMBER OF TARGETED MEASURES AIMED SPECIFICALLY AT THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES AND OTHER SUPPORTERS OF THE 1991 COUP D'ETAT. MY GOVERNMENT IS CONVINCED THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO COMPEL THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES TO RESPECT THEIR COMMITMENTS.

I WOULD UNDERLINE IN THIS REGARD THAT THE RESOLUTION MAKES CLEAR THAT SANCTIONS WILL NOT BE COMPLETELY LIFTED UNTIL PRESIDENT ARISTIDE HAS RETURNED TO HAITI.

MR. PRESIDENT,

TO BE TRULY EFFECTIVE, BOTH EXISTING SANCTIONS AND THE NEW MEASURES CONTAINED IN THIS RESOLUTION DEPEND ON FULL COMPLIANCE BY ALL STATES. CANADA, WITH SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES, IS PARTICIPATING IN THE MARITIME INTERDICTION FORCE AIMED AT ENSURING SANCTIONS ARE FULLY IMPLEMENTED.