

Government Orders

The United States abandoned any serious commitment to the embargo in February of this year. Even the Secretary-General of the OAS, Jose Baena Soares, expressed his concern at that time about the decision that was made when he said: "To change the multilateral recommendation in my view we should have some real progress in the implementation of the resolutions, imposing the embargo and calling for Aristide's restoration".

There has been no progress. Just last week another supporter of Jean-Bertrand Aristide was brutally murdered in Haiti. While the eyes of the world are focused on Somalia, on the unfolding tragedies in Bosnia, in the Sudan, in Liberia and elsewhere, perhaps it is difficult to remind the world of the importance of not abandoning the people of Haiti. The purpose of the motion today before the House is to do precisely that.

[Translation]

Its purpose is to give both Haitians and Canadians the assurance that we have not forgotten their struggle, the struggle of the Haitian people for democracy and economic and social justice. That is why this motion is before the House. Canada should play a leading role by asking the OAS, the UN and all European countries to enforce sanctions and do everything they can to restore democracy.

[English]

One of the most important issues at this time is support for the NGOs who are working, many of them very bravely, for a restoration of democracy and hope for the people of Haiti. Instead of increasing support for NGOs working in the field of development, the government in its economic statement just last week slashed funding to these same NGOs, to Oxfam, to *l'AQOCI dans la province de Québec* and to other NGOs working desperately to try to help the people of Haiti respond in this time of crisis.

We condemn the priorities of a government which is prepared to slash over \$600 million from foreign aid at the same time as it budgets over \$4 billion for helicopters. This is a shameful decision.

I also want to raise my concern about the decision of Radio Canada International to stop its broadcasts to the people of Haiti.

[Translation]

Since the coup in September 1991, the people of Haiti have had a very difficult time. Restoration of the military regime resulted in severe repression of all the media. Broadcasts by Radio-Canada International were one of

the sole sources of international news available to the people of Haiti. The broadcasts opened a window to the outside world and gave Haitians at least some hope that the international community had not turned its back on their plight.

Why did Radio-Canada International stop these broadcasts which were so important to the people of Haiti? Today I want to ask the parliamentary secretary to help us provide the necessary resources to reinstate these broadcasts and get in touch with Canadian and Quebec NGOs who are active in Haiti and urge them to do what they can to help restore democracy.

I ask the government to resume the Radio-Canada International broadcasts beamed to Haiti. Unfortunately, terminating these broadcasts has merely reinforced the wall of silence that the *de facto* regime has raised around the people of Haiti to maintain repression and stifle the resistance movement.

[English]

It is essential that Canada play a leadership role within the United Nations, within the OAS and elsewhere to bring the strongest possible pressure to bear on the illegitimate and criminal regime of Haiti and to demand the restoration of the democratically elected president of Haiti.

The European Community has failed miserably to respond to the crisis of the Haitian people. The embargo is full of holes and the thugs and the Tonton Macoutes and the Haitian army, working together with the economic elite in that poorest of poor countries in the Caribbean and Latin America, are receiving a subtle message of encouragement by the failure of the government of the United States, the European Community and elsewhere to show their seriousness.

The people of Haiti have demonstrated tremendous courage in their struggle for democracy. I believe that the United States and the OAS, which has proven to be completely ineffective in this struggle, owe it to the people of Haiti, not only to ensure that those who are fleeing from this tragic situation have a safe haven but that we take strong collective measures in consultation with the democratically elected president and government of Haiti to put pressure on the regime that is now in power.

It is also very important that Canada consult closely with the constitutionally elected government of Jean-Bertrand Aristide with respect to humanitarian aid. A number of NGOs here in Canada have voiced their concern that the *de facto* government appears to be co-opting some well meaning humanitarian aid providers in Haiti. It is essential that all of those working in this