

circumstances or any government elected as a result of these illegal actions.

We have requested that all OAS members immediately impose a freeze on all assets of the Haitian government and impose a trade embargo on Haiti, except for humanitarian aid.

I believe that the new rulers cannot rule Haiti, and that these actions by the OAS will convince those currently in charge that they must return power to democratically elected President Aristide.

This will address the short-term but not the long-term problem in Haiti.

During our visits to Haiti it became clear that substantial multilateral involvement would be required to establish strong democratic institutions. It is for this reason that the OAS has accepted the invitation of President Aristide to establish a civilian mission for the support and strengthening of constitutional democracy in Haiti (OEA - Democ) which will go to that country in order to assist Haitians in:

- 1) strengthening democratic institutions;
- 2) ensuring the full application of the constitution;
- 3) instilling respect for human rights for all Haitians;  
and
- 4) improving the administration of justice and the functioning of all institutions that support democracy.

The organization of a special fund to finance this activity has been entrusted to the Secretary General.

The mission cannot be put in place without an appropriate guarantee of the security of its members. Conditions within Haiti must be such that the mission can effectively carry out its functions. To this end, channels of communications will be maintained with democratically constituted political institutions and other sectors in Haiti to facilitate dialogue with a view to ensuring the conditions that will be made possible for President Aristide to return to office.

Mr. Chairman, this represents a long-term commitment to Haiti and to the strengthening of its institutions. Haiti will also need substantial new resources for its economic development, particularly to enhance prospects of the vast majority of Haitians who live in abject poverty. I can assure all representatives here today that Canada is seriously committed to assisting Haiti in the development of its democratic institutions and its economy, not just for now but over the long term.