

reconstruction of roads, distribution of farm tools, and rehabilitation of schools and medical clinics. The Canadian contribution also includes support for Haiti's balance of payments and for repayment of its debt service arrears to international financial institutions. The arrears payment will satisfy an institutional requirement and thus clear the way for these institutions to disburse a planned aid package to Haiti worth hundreds of millions of dollars. As part of the same program, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) will help train members for a reformed Haitian police, drawn from the Haitian community in Canada and elsewhere in the Western Hemisphere. The RCMP will also send a contingent to Haiti to help the government establish a civilian police force. .../4

**FINANCE**

**Finance Minister Reaffirms Deficit Targets**

**October 18, 1994, 94-095**

Finance Minister Paul Martin launched the consultation process for the 1995 budget with a renewed commitment to take the action required to achieve the government's deficit reduction targets. Describing Canada's deficit and debt burden as "unsustainable," Mr. Martin told the House of Commons Finance Committee that addressing the fiscal challenge is "the keystone of responsible economic policy." "The fact is we won't get the quality of growth we need to generate the jobs we want until we gain control of the debt," he said in updating the economic and fiscal situation and releasing a document entitled, *Creating a Healthy Fiscal Climate*. The update follows by one day the Minister's release of a companion paper -- *A New Framework for Economic Policy* -- which outlines a comprehensive strategy to create more and better jobs by fostering stronger economic growth. In updating the economic and fiscal situation, the Minister told the Committee that: The economy has been stronger than expected, but so far the fiscal benefits have been more than offset by higher than expected interest rates. Nevertheless, the government is still on track to meet its 1994-95 deficit target of no more than \$39.7 billion. The impact of higher interest rates on debt charges means that further action is required to meet the 1995-96 deficit target of \$32.7 billion and the interim target of 3 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 1996-1997. "It is a target that we will meet, come hell or high water," the Minister told the committee, adding that it will mean the turning point.... The growth in the debt will be brought down below the growth in the economy."

**Minister of Finance Releases New Framework for Economic Policy**

**October 17, 1994, 94-094**

Finance Minister Paul Martin released the policy paper that will guide the government's agenda for jobs and growth. "There is only one answer to our jobs dilemma. And that is sustained, substantial economic growth....And the key to growth is productivity....Productivity is about how well ideas, workers, resources and investment are brought together in a nation's economy," the Minister said in presenting the document entitled, *a New Framework for Economic Policy*, to the House of Commons Finance Committee. The jobs and growth strategy is built around five key priorities for government economic policy: helping Canadians acquire skills;....encouraging Canadians to adapt to change;....getting government right;....providing leadership in the economy;....creating a healthy fiscal and monetary climate.

**ENVIRONMENT**

**Government Establishes a Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development**

**October 19, 1994, 94-094**

The Government will fulfil another "Red Book" commitment by establishing a Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development in the Office of the Auditor General. The announcement was made in the House of Commons by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Environment, Sheila Copps, as she tabled the government's response to the first report of the Standing Committee on the Environment and Sustainable Development.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- October 24, 1994: Launch of United Nations 50th Anniversary Commemoration Activities
- October 27, 1994: G-7 meeting on Ukraine (Winnipeg, Canada)
- November 11-12, 1994: APEC Ministerial Meeting (Jakarta, Indonesia)
- December 5-6, 1994: Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe Summit (Budapest, Hungary)
- December 9-10, 1994: Summit of the Americas (Miami, Florida)

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