

about global application of the trade embargo" the OAS called for. We continue to stand by this resolution, and we strongly support the continuing efforts of Mr. Caputo as joint envoy of the two Secretaries-General.

The present situation in Haiti, as all its neighbours have come to recognize it, is a threat to peace and order in the region. Hundreds of thousands of Haitians of all ages have sought a refuge elsewhere. They want relief from a combination of factors that make life in their country unbearable. This is the result of years of harsh and arbitrary treatment of a citizenry that is literally enslaved. We must remember that few of them took to the seas after President Aristide's election, and that an estimated 400,000 fled the capital after the coup.

For these reasons, my government agrees with President Aristide that full embargo is the only method left at our disposal to bring a rapid conclusion to this tragic situation -- if we take vigorously the necessary steps.

It is only by demonstrating our strong joint resolve that those who now hold power in Haiti will understand that there is no other solution than the negotiated peace that the international community is offering.

Let me assure you that the Canadian government's commitment to democratic rule in Haiti will not lessen: this is what Canadians and the majority of Haitians expect from us.

We believe democracy is essential to development, and we can no longer envisage future co-operation with Haiti, or any other country, without taking human rights into consideration.