
News Release

No. 3

January 7, 1991

CANADA WELCOMES REVERSAL OF ATTEMPTED COUP D'ETAT IN HAITI

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, and the Minister for External Relations and International Development, the Honourable Monique Landry, today congratulated the Haitian authorities for their swift action in reversing the attempted seizure of power by former Minister of the Interior Roger Lafontant. The Ministers expressed the Government's relief that the interim President, Mme Ertha Pascal-Trouillot, had been released. All Canadians in Haiti are reported to be safe.

"Canada," said Mr. Clark, "has fully supported the process of democratization in Haiti, and welcomed the first free and orderly elections in Haiti's history, which resulted in the landslide victory of Jean-Bertrand Aristide on December 16, 1990." Mrs. Landry stated that "our Government is greatly encouraged by the clear demonstration of support by the Armed Forces for the democratic process in Haiti. We hope that the long cycle of repression and despair which has marked Haiti's history may at long last be over."

The Ministers urged the people of Haiti to work toward national reconciliation and respect for human rights, and to maintain calm in the period between now and the inauguration of the President-elect, now scheduled for February 7.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
External Affairs and International Trade Canada
Tel: (613) 995-1874