



No. 216

October 1, 1991

## McDOUGALL ATTENDS OAS MEETING ON HAITI

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, announced tonight that she will attend the emergency Foreign Ministers meeting of the Organization of American States (OAS) to be held in Washington, Wednesday, October 2nd.

"We are bitterly disappointed with developments in Port au Prince. Canada believes the OAS can make a difference, and at the meeting tomorrow I will be seeking ways we can achieve the immediate restoration of Haiti's legitimate government," stated Mrs. McDougall. "We also demand that the safety of officials of the legitimate government in Port au Prince be guaranteed."

Earlier today, the Minister for External Relations and International Development, the Honourable Monique Landry announced that Canada is suspending the resumption of all bilateral co-operation with the Haitian government.

Mrs. McDougall welcomed the UN Secretary-General's statement on Haiti and has instructed Ambassador Fortier to pursue consultations at the United Nations. Canada's Ambassador to Venezuela met with President Aristide in Venezuela this morning.

The Canadian Embassy in Port au Prince is contacting Canadians in Haiti and, as of 18:30 today, has no reports of any deaths or injuries.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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