

*Government Orders*

sanctions without effective enforcement. It has become a charade and a total and complete fabrication.

I do not think it is a wise and proper move for the people of Canada, through their government, to be associated with a measure that continues to enforce the most tragic group of people in the western hemisphere, the people of Haiti, to suffer even more and allow the continuance and maintenance of a dictatorial government.

Last weekend I attended a meeting of Latin American states sponsored by the United Nations in Chile on democracy and development. At that meeting were representatives of the exiled government of Haiti. They made a very important and powerful argument that if we are to allow a military dictatorship to continue to exist in Haiti, flaunting all the best intentions of the OAS, the United Nations and the western countries, then it becomes a signal to other military dictatorships throughout the western hemisphere to do the same because it is a cost-free, risk-free enterprise.

The international community is undertaking very strong interventions in Somalia to ease the human rights violations, famine and hunger of that area. It has even gone into the enormously complex and difficult area of Bosnia, not necessarily with full success, but it has at least made the effort. Yet in our own hemisphere we are allowing the matter to be forgotten.

Once in a while a speech is made. There was a resolution passed at the UN General Assembly just a week or so ago, where countries in a unanimous way said "we cannot tolerate this anymore, we must ensure the restoration of constitutional government". I think we can say honestly words are cheap but action is what counts. It is really a question of whether we are prepared to live up to the commitments made by the Prime Minister who said "we are prepared to use any means to ensure the restoration of democracy"

Where is the initiative? Where is the effort being made to hold members of the OAS to account? Where are we making the case to our European allies, who daily break the embargo and send in oil and goods to wealthy entrepreneurs in Haiti in total contradiction of the embargo, and no one says anything?

[*Translation*]

As a matter of fact, our own country's attitude toward the level, the standards and the measures of the embargo is unacceptable. For example, during the last week of November, this government reduced the budget of Radio-Canada International and in doing so, cancelled the broadcasts aimed at Haitians; which were very important to them, and brought a message of hope.

• (1640 )

[*English*]

Is this an act of a government prepared to use every means to keep freedom alive to cancel one of the few opportunities for the Haitian people to get unbiased news and uncensored information?

At the same time, on the question of aid and development, we have a very murky policy as to whether the aid going through the NGOs for humanitarian purposes is in fact being channelled to the military dictatorship government in Haiti.

We have not made very clear or improved our assistance, in fact we have cut it back, to try to alleviate some of the suffering our own sanctions are causing.

We are faced with a very serious difficult dilemma as a country. We are presently endorsing and accepting a program of economic sanctions which is being laughed at by the military rulers of Haiti. It does virtually nothing to apply pressure for the restoration of the Aristide government. At the same time we are doing very little to try to develop new initiatives to the OAS which are meaningful, real and consequential.

It is important to raise these questions at this time because I think there are opportunities for change. The election of a new administration in the United States has publicly taken quite a different stance in relation to Haiti and may provide some opportunity for a new dialogue and a new set of policy formulations for that country. They are now prepared for the first time to say refugees from Haiti will at least be treated according to the norms of international law.

To my mind nothing bothered me more than the transgressions by the Bush administration of the fundamental precepts of the international convention of refugees by what it called defouling people or sending them back illegally, even though the administration was one of the causes of the problems. It was an American