

News Release

Secretary of
State for
External Affairs



Communiqué

Secrétaire d'État
aux Affaires
extérieures

No. 161

August 27, 1993

CANADA TO SUSPEND SANCTIONS AGAINST HAITI

External Affairs Minister Perrin Beatty announced today that Canada is suspending its economic sanctions against Haiti. The decision is in response to calls from the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS) to suspend international sanctions against Haiti following the ratification of Prime Minister Malval and the acceptance of his Cabinet and his political and economic program by the Haitian Parliament.

"I would like to offer to President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and Prime Minister Robert Malval my best wishes for success in their difficult task ahead, and to assure them of Canada's continued support for the Government of Haiti and the people of Haiti in the reconstruction of their country.

I would also like to express my sincere admiration and congratulations to Special Envoy Dante Caputo, OAS Secretary-General Joao Baena Soares and UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali for their efforts and determination in bringing about a peaceful solution to the Haitian crisis," the Minister said.

Mr. Beatty said, however, that any failure to comply with the terms of the Governors Island Agreement on the transition to democracy and the return of President Aristide could trigger a return to sanctions.

Minister Beatty said that, effective immediately, Canada will resume the full range of the co-operation that had been suspended after the September 30, 1991, coup-d'état. Canada's bilateral development assistance program will be

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reinstated in close consultation with the Haitian government. Canada will also work with international financial institutions to secure an adequate financial assistance package to enable the new government to carry out its mandate.

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