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JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE VISIT
TO CANADA OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF HAITI

On the invitation of the Government of Canada, Their Excellencies Jean Robert Estimé, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cults of the Republic of Haiti, Frantz Merceron, Secretary of State for Finance and Economic Affairs, Claude Weil, Secretary of State for Planning, and Mr. Jean-Michel Ligondé, Director General of the National Investment Promotion Office, paid an official visit to Canada from June 13 to 15, 1983.

The Haitian Delegation had cordial and beneficial talks with the Honourable Charles Lapointe, Minister of State (External Relations), the Honourable Eugene Whelan, Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable André Ouellet, Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, the Honourable Paul Cosgrove, Minister of State for Finance, and a group of Parliamentarians and other Canadian officials.

The conversations were held in a cordial atmosphere. Discussion centred on a review of many questions of common interest and of the regional and international situation.

Both the Haitian and Canadian representatives expressed the desire of their Governments to contribute toward improving international economic relations, especially in the context of North-South dialogue, safeguarding peace and freedom in the world, and ensuring respect for the dignity and progress of mankind.

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The Canadian representatives expressed their satisfaction with and support for the efforts of the Haitian Government to liberalize its institutions and to carry out its fiscal and budgetary reform program. They also expressed their Government's willingness to cooperate with the Haitian Government in developing the country, improving the standard of living and furthering the cause of social justice.

With this in mind, the representatives of both governments agreed to continue economic, commercial and cultural cooperation between the two countries and to seek to improve it in the priority sectors agreed upon by common consent.

In their awareness of the need to complete the efforts of the governments through the promotion of private initiative and bearing in mind the favourable conditions existing in Haiti, the two parties agreed to pay special attention to the strengthening of trade and industrial relations. They decided to exchange missions in the near future consisting of representatives from the public and private sectors and to examine measures by which bilateral economic relations might be stimulated.

During the visit, the representatives of the two governments also signed an agreement on postal money orders.

His Excellency Jean-Robert Estimé, the Haitian Foreign Minister, expressed heartfelt thanks to his host, the Honourable Charles Lapointe, for the welcome and the hospitality extended to the Haitian Delegation during its visit to Canada, and officially invited him to visit Haiti soon. The visit was agreed to in principle.

The Haitian Foreign Minister also asked his Canadian counterpart to convey to the Government and people of Canada the personal best wishes of His Excellency Mr. Jean-Claude Duvalier, President for Life of the Republic of Haiti.