

News Release

Secretary of
State for
External Affairs



Communiqué

Secrétaire d'État
aux Affaires
extérieures

No. 8

January 15, 1993

CANADA SUPPORTS INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS ON HAITI

External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall today expressed Canada's strong support for the efforts of Mr. Dante Caputo, the Special Envoy of the Secretaries-General of the United Nations (UN) and the Organization of American States (OAS), to restore democracy in Haiti. She called on the de facto authorities to co-operate fully with Mr. Caputo during his visit to Haiti, which begins today.

The UN Secretary-General has announced that Mr. Caputo's efforts have resulted in a framework that could lead to a political solution to the crisis. Canada has long been working to involve the United Nations directly in international efforts to restore democracy in Haiti and welcomed Mr. Caputo's appointment last December as a very positive development.

Since the military coup in Haiti in September 1991, both the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs have conducted an intensive campaign of consultations with President Aristide and with European, Latin American and Caribbean leaders. Most recently, Mrs. McDougall discussed the situation in Haiti with U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger and French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas in Paris on January 13.

"Canada will continue these efforts to ensure that democracy is restored in Haiti," Mrs. McDougall said.

Mr. Caputo has been invited to visit Ottawa for further consultations after his return from Port-au-Prince.

"Mr. Caputo has accepted my invitation, and this will give us the opportunity to continue to work closely with him in an effort to find a constitutional solution to the Haitian crisis," added Mrs. McDougall.

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