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SOURCE: PCO

DATE: JANUARY 28, 2010

REFERENCE/ RÉFÉRENCE: 2801doc4

LOCATION/LIEU: DAVOS

TIME/ HEURE: 12:30

LENGTH/DURÉE: 4.5 MINUTES

BILATERAL: PRIME MINISTER STEPHEN HARPER AND
FORMER U.S. PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON

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REPORTER: Mr. President, what do you think of Canada's role in Haiti? What do you think of Canada's role in Haiti? What do you think of Canada's role in Haiti? What do you think of Canada's role in Haiti?

BILL CLINTON (Former President of the United States): I think they have been unbelievable. First, the Canadian people are so generous. I'll bet you on a per capita basis they're number one in the world in helping Haiti, now, probably because of the Prime Minister's matching grant program. But for whatever reason, the Canadians have all given money and all want to support it. And you should be very proud of that. There is a big Canadian Haitian diaspora in Canada. But this goes way beyond that. I mean, it's, I'm very grateful.

REPORTERS: You will be meeting President Uribe from Columbia sir. [*Crosstalk*]

CLINTON: The Israelis? I think first of all you should know that of all the people who sent what were in effect, you know, battlefield clinics, the Israelis had the best immediate surgical capacity. And I don't know what we would have done for a day or two without them. So, I can tell you, I am personally very grateful. But I think the people of Israel should be quite proud that they did this. I saw there was a big debate about whether it was the right thing to do. Believe me, it was the right thing to do. And we'll get the Haitian health system up and running again. Right now we're organizing the distribution of the antibiotics, the surgical materials, trying to get the flow of material to all the units better. But I'm just telling you, you had the best capacity to do the most in the least time from the minute you started up. And I don't know what we would have done there for a couple of days.

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REPORTERS: [*Crosstalk*]

CLINTON: More health care. Stay with us on health care right now. Then when we start implementing the development plan, I think a lot of the lessons from Israel in agriculture and other things may become relevant. But right now stay with us on health care.

REPORTER: [*Crosstalk*]

CLINTON: Great. I told him I was thrilled to hear President Obama endorse the Colombian trade agreement last night. For me it was, it was a very good thing because you know I believe in it and I believe in America's partnership with Colombia and I believe in the work that President Uribe has done to try to give the people of Colombia a better future.

REPORTER: Are you coming to Cartagena for the World Economic Forum, the Latin American World Economic Forum?

CLINTON: I didn't know it was in April.

UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you. Thank you folks. We've got to go.

UNIDENTIFIED: Could we just get a handshake here Prime Minister?

[*Crosstalk*]

CLINTON: Did you want to say anything else about this?

STEPHEN HARPER (Prime Minister): Well we're, as you know, Haiti is a big priority for us and we're delighted with the work President Clinton's doing. And we talked about how can partner even more as we go forward in the future. As, as the President has said, you know, it's day-to-day, week-to-week now. But we're starting to look at the long term and that's the focus we're going to have going forward.

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REPORTER: Are you guys concerned that after the immediate rush to help with aid that people are going to forget about Haiti and then in years to come, I know it's a commitment of ten years that you're talking about Prime Minister. But is there concern people will forget about Haiti in two years time?

HARPER: Well, for us, as you know, Haiti has been our number two foreign aid priority in the world, number one in the Americas. And that's (inaudible) for us. I hope it's true for everyone else.

CLINTON: I think it won't happen, you know, the United States and Canada have the biggest Haitian diaspora, along with France. We won't forget. And I think that if we organize this properly so that both the people in Haiti and the donors, from those that give five dollars to those that give five million, see that progress is being made and see that it's done in a transparent, open, accountable way, I think that, I think that this earthquake and how people have seen how brave the Haitians have been and what they've learned about Haiti, its culture, its history, its past, have captured the imagination of the whole world. I think really the question is, those of us in the middle of this have to (inaudible) on little. We have to do this right. And then I think if we do it right and progress is made, then the commitment (inaudible).

UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you. Thank you.

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