

HAITI NEWS ROUNDUP: JULY 18 – 20, 2005

Haitian leader threatens backlash after journalist's murder Monday, July 18, 2005 Caribbean Net News

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AFP): Prime Minister Gerard Latortue threatened Friday to unleash ex-soldiers to combat crime and armed gangs throughout the country after the brutal kidnapping and murder of a prominent Haitian journalist.

The killing of Jacques Roche, whose body was discovered Thursday tied to a chair, burned, beaten and shot with a gun in the Haitian capital, was branded as a "vile act" by Latortue.

While avoiding making specific accusations in the case, Latortue said he wanted to deploy former soldiers to help restore order in the violence-wracked country.

Despite the presence of more than 7,000 troops and police in an international peacekeeping mission, Haiti has seen a mounting wave of kidnappings and murders in recent months as it prepares for national and local elections later this year. Several hundred people have been killed since September.

Meanwhile, Minister of Information and Culture Magalie Comeau Denis accused supporters of exiled former president Jean Bertrand Aristide of the murder of Roche, who worked for Le Matin newspaper as a literary critic and was co-presenter of a show on Radio Ibo.

One of his television shows appeared to contribute to the downfall of Aristide in February 2004.

"The kidnapping and the assassination of the poet and journalist Jacques Roche are the acts of political crime perpetrated by monsters in the pay of Jean Bertrand Aristide", said Denis.

"We are pursuing those behind this crime," Denis said.

Council: Banish Aristide party
BY LEONARDO ALDRIDGE
Associated Press
Miami Herald
July 18, 2005

PORT-AU-PRINCE - A U.S.-backed advisory council that oversees Haiti's interim government recommended Saturday that ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's political party be barred from upcoming elections, accusing the party of encouraging violence.

The seven-member Council of Sages, which picked the interim government, accused Aristide's Lavalas Family Party of promoting violence, including the slaying of a well-known Haitian journalist whose body was found with signs of torture Monday.

"Political groups who identify themselves with the Lavalas Family Party, and particularly with Mr. Jean-Bertrand Aristide, continue to promote and tolerate violence," the council said.

The council urged the interim government to ``make the bold political and beneficial decision to disqualify the Lavalas Family Party from the electoral process."

But Haiti's Provisional Electoral Council indicated that all political parties would be welcome in the October and November elections.

"The election is for all political parties of Haiti," said electoral council spokesman Rosemond Pradel.

Lavalas is Haiti's most organized political force, with much of its support coming from sprawling slums in Port-au-Prince. Aristide was ousted in a bloody, three-week rebellion in February 2004.

Lavalas party members, who have said they will boycott the elections unless Aristide returned from exile in South Africa, have denied involvement in violence that has killed more than 700 people in the capital of Port-au-Prince since September.

Lavalas leader Rev. Gerard Jean-Juste, a Roman Catholic priest who is considering running for president, said the interim government feared Aristide supporters would win

Man sentenced to 18 years in prison for killing baby
July 19, 2005
New York Newsday

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. -- A Bridgeport man has been sentenced to 18 years in prison for killing his 10-week-old son in June 2003.

Ricardo St. Cyr, 35, will also be deported to his native Haiti after serving his prison time.

A Bridgeport Superior Court jury convicted St. Cyr of second-degree manslaughter and risk of injury to a minor in May for the death of Ricardo St. Cyr Jr.

"I couldn't believe what happened to a defenseless 10-week-old child," Judge Richard Comerford Jr. told St. Cyr at Monday's sentencing hearing. "I couldn't believe that any human being that was left in the care and custody and control of a child that small, that defenseless, could allow that to happen."

Prosecutor Howard Stein told the judge that St. Cyr continues to deny responsibility for the child's death.

"He has placed blame at the feet of everyone but his own, but the testimony is clear he is responsible for his child's terrible death," he said.

St. Cyr and his girlfriend, Paul Belleza, brought their son to Bridgeport Hospital on June 30, 2003, because the boy wasn't breathing, police said. An autopsy later determined that the child's head was fractured and he had a large tear in his brain. The medical examiner said a great deal of force was needed to cause such injuries.

St. Cyr told police that he had been caring for the child while his Belleza was at work. Belleza said St. Cyr called her at work and told her the baby was ill.

Information from: Connecticut Post, <http://www.connpost.com>

CB East grad gets bravery award

By GREG COFFEY

The Intelligencer, PA

July 18, 2005

Nick Pietrowicz admits a flicker of doubt flashed through his mind in early 2004 as the Haitian government collapsed amid rioting, shootings and other violence.

"I did stop and think sometimes that it would have been better to be in Punxsutawney," joked the Central Bucks East High School graduate, referring to a vacation he had to cancel when the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince switched to evacuation mode.

But Pietrowicz, 30, who works for the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, a branch of the U.S. Department of State, wasn't going anywhere; it was his job to evacuate everyone else, including hundreds of American citizens, embassy employees and their families, Peace Corps volunteers and others.

Putting his doubts aside, Pietrowicz acted, according to Diplomatic Security officials, with "sustained superior performance" and "unusual dedication to duty."

Between December 2003 and February 2004, he rescued the leader of a prominent pro-democracy group, disarmed two men who were trying to break into the embassy compound and thwarted an attempt by two truckloads of rebels to prevent 200 Americans from getting on a plane to leave the country, according to bureau officials.

For his actions, Pietrowicz was awarded a medal of bravery from the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association. Richard Griffin, head of Diplomatic Security, said the award was more than deserved, given the extreme circumstances and the fact that no one Pietrowicz was charged with protecting was killed.

"Accomplishing the impossible is extraordinary," Griffin said.

It's even more extraordinary considering Pietrowicz's minimal military training. After graduating from Temple University Law School in 2000, he decided that sitting behind a desk all day wasn't for him; he wanted to travel. Shortly before Sept. 11, 2001, he applied for a job with the State Department and got a call from Diplomatic Security a week or so after the terrorist attacks.

In Haiti, Diplomatic Security agents have a number of responsibilities. They provide security to embassy employees, offer training advice to local police departments, track down fugitives, and conduct counterintelligence and counterterrorism operations. Right now, one of their most important duties is to prevent kidnapping, which has escalated substantially since Jean-Bertrand Aristide was forced to leave the country in late February 2004.

For those who knew Pietrowicz when he lived in the area, his behavior is no great shock.

"I'm entirely unsurprised," said Alan Saft, one of Pietrowicz's English teachers at CB East.

Saft said his former student's friendly demeanor allowed him to get along with all types of students. Pietrowicz was politically and socially concerned even as a high school student, and his intellect and moral strength distinguished him from his peers, he said.

"He wanted to help others, and he believed strongly in the United States government and its capacity for doing good," Saft said.

His parents paid him a visit recently, and his father, Richard Pietrowicz, said he was impressed with how much responsibility his son has and how much he has matured.

"He makes good, quick decisions and handles himself well," Richard Pietrowicz said.

The younger Pietrowicz will spend the next two months in Haiti and then return to Pennsylvania for about a month. After that, he'll receive his next assignment.

Pietrowicz said he's proud of what he and the United States have accomplished in Haiti, saying the political and social atmosphere there has changed dramatically since he arrived. Instead of a blanket of pessimism, he said, people are looking toward the future with optimism.

Despite the dangers of the job, Pietrowicz has no plans to quit or settle down behind a desk.

"I intend to keep working for Diplomatic Security for the rest of my life. I enjoy serving my country, and I get a tremendous amount of satisfaction out of it."

Philippines sending extra 200 troops to Haiti
19 Jul 2005
Reuters

MANILA, July 19 (Reuters) - The Philippines will send 200 additional troops to Haiti to help United Nations' peacekeeping forces curb political unrest ahead of elections, the president said on Tuesday.

The Philippines sent up to 150 soldiers to Haiti last November to join nearly 4,000 Brazilian-led peacekeepers on the Caribbean island, now run by an interim government charged with organising fresh elections, scheduled for November.

"I have authorised 200 soldiers more to be sent to Haiti," Gloria Macapagal Arroyo said during celebrations marking the Department of Foreign Affairs' 107th anniversary.

The U.N. mission is tasked with restoring order in Haiti after its president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, was ousted in February last year. About 650 people in Haiti have been killed in a wave of violence since last September.

In April, a Filipino peacekeeper was killed during an attack on a checkpoint in the impoverished Cite Soleil neighbourhood, one of Haiti's most dangerous areas.

Since taking a non-permanent seat in the 15-member U.N. Security Council last year, the Philippines has sent peacekeeping forces to African states Ivory Coast and Liberia. It has also contributed troops to East Timor.

In July last year, it withdrew a token presence in Iraq to save the life of a Filipino truck driver taken captive by militants outside Baghdad

U.N. condemns killing of Haiti journalist
Science Daily
July 18, 2005

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti, July 18 (UPI) -- U.N. officials Monday condemned the murder of a well-known Haitian journalist who was found dead in the nation's capital last week.

"I condemn the abduction and murder of Jacques Roche," said Koichiro Matsuura, director-general of U.N. Educational Scientific and Culture Organization. "He is a victim of the violence that continues to plague the Haitian capital."

Last week Roche, who was both a newspaper editor and radio personality, had reportedly been tortured and killed. Roche's body was dumped in the Delmas neighborhood of Port-au-Prince, Haitian radio reported Friday.

Kidnappings have been on the rise in recent months amid Haiti's growing surge in violence.

The Caribbean nation's recent troubles began in early 2004, when armed rebels began taking over the country calling for then-President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to resign. Aristide left office in February 2004 and went into exile in several nations before settling in South Africa, where he is now.

UNESCO chief condemns killing of journalists in Brazil and Haiti
UN News Centre
July 19, 2005

19 July 2005 – Condemning the recent murder of journalists in Brazil and Haiti, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has yet again stressed that an attack on reporters is an attack on society itself.

Cândido Amorim Pinto, host of one of the most popular programmes on Rádio Comunitária Alterniva FM in the north-eastern Brazilian city of Carpina, was shot dead on 1 July. He was known for his outspoken criticism of nepotism and corruption and had survived an earlier attempt on his life last May.

“An attack on a radio journalist is also an attack on freedom of expression and democracy,” UNESCO Director-General Koïchiro Matsuura said in a message.

“As stressed by the 1997 resolution signed by UNESCO Member States, any physical violence against media professionals is ‘a crime against society, since this curtails freedom of expression and, as a consequence, the other rights and freedoms set forth in international human rights instruments’,” he added.

“I am sure that Brazilian authorities will do their utmost to identify the culprits of this crime and bring them to justice, as they have done recently in other cases involving the murder of journalists in the country.”

Haitian journalist Jacques Roche, cultural editor with the daily Le Matin and host of a television show, was kidnapped in the capital, Port-au-Prince, on 10 July and his body was found four days later after his captors demanded a ransom of \$250,000. His murder was not directly linked to his professional activities, but “the press is one of the sectors most at risk in this climate of terror,” Mr. Matsuura said.

“A free and independent press, which is an essential component of a democratic society, cannot exist in such conditions. I trust that the government of Haiti will play its part in restoring order and the rule of law,” he said.

Mr. Matsuura's statements were the latest in a long series of condemnations of attacks on journalists around the world that he has issued recently. UNESCO's mandate includes the defence of freedom of expression and press freedom.

USAID to Provide Hurricane Disaster Assistance to Haiti

July 18 2005

Press Release - USAID

Harold Doan and Associates

Washington, D.C. - The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has announced it will provide an initial \$50,000 in immediate disaster relief funding to assist victims of Hurricane Dennis in Haiti.

From July 6 to 7, Hurricane Dennis caused significant damage to the southern peninsula of Haiti that resulted in approximately 40 deaths. The Haitian Ministry of Interior (MOI) reported that the flooding and winds caused by Hurricane Dennis affected 15,000 residents and damaged agriculture and infrastructure. The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), and the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) are providing food, potable water, and emergency relief supplies to those affected by Hurricane Dennis. These organizations report that the most critical need is potable water, particularly in areas where water systems were destroyed. Residents in affected areas are also in need of emergency relief supplies such as blankets, hygiene kits, and shelter materials.

On July 15, the U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Douglas Griffiths declared a disaster due to the damage caused by Hurricane Dennis in Haiti. In response, USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance is providing the initial funds to CRS for potable water and emergency relief supplies to assist affected residents.

Reports of ad hoc advisory groups on Haiti, Burundi, Guinea-Bissau discussed in Economic and Social Council ECOSOC/6169
Economic and Social Council
2005 Substantive Session
29th Meeting (PM)
Source: United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
18 Jul 2005

The international community was urged to stay the course in helping post-conflict countries make the transition to development, as the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) this afternoon began its consideration of general issues with a discussion led by its Ad Hoc Advisory Groups on Haiti, Burundi and Guinea-Bissau.

Introducing the report of the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, its Chairman, Alan Rock of Canada, said that while the Group recognized that the chief responsibility for building a stable and democratic country rested in the hands of the Haitian people, the international community must play a supporting role over the longer term to consolidate stability and turn Haiti towards the achievement of the development goals.

For that to happen, he continued, the new Government would need to focus on a few areas that would demonstrate progress to the Haitian people. Consideration should be given to those “quick wins” identified by the Secretary-General’s Millennium Task Force that were appropriate in the Haitian context, while preparing the ground for longer-term investments in key areas.

Introducing the reports on the Ad Hoc Advisory Groups on Burundi and Guinea-Bissau, Xolisa Mabhongo of South Africa also urged a long-term commitment from the international community, not only during the critical period of political consolidation, but also well beyond.

In the discussions that followed the introduction of those reports, speakers agreed that the United Nations, other international institutions and bilateral donors should remain engaged during the transition from post-conflict to development.

Some speakers supported an extended role of the Ad Hoc Advisory Groups in that process, however, while others said their role should be limited. The representative of Guinea-Bissau, thanking the members of the Ad Hoc Group for their hard work and dedication to her country’s cause, said that, despite the ups and downs of the country from 2002 to date, the Group had been consistent in its advocacy on behalf of the country and in its recognition of the vital link between political stability and economic and social development. She strongly supported extension of its mandate.

The representative of the Russian Federation, while praising the Ad Hoc Group on Guinea-Bissau for bringing back multilateral donors such as the World Bank, said that the question of efficiency must be considered with regard to such Groups. Their purpose must not be forgotten. They were to be special interim ECOSOC instruments; repeated extension of mandates defeated the purpose.

Similarly, the United States’ representative said Ad Hoc Advisory Groups must avoid duplication and to not go beyond their mandates. In particular, she admonished the advisory Group on Haiti for making

recommendations on organizations, such as the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), that were under the aegis of the Security Council.

Replying for the Advisory Group on Haiti, Mr. Rock said that the mandate of the Group was to set up the framework for long-term development and its recommendations on MINUSTAH were given towards that end. An integrated approach to getting Haiti out of its tough situation required a shared commitment and practical steps that might go beyond jurisdictional boundaries.

Earlier this afternoon, introducing the wide variety of issues contained in the general segment, Patrizio Civili, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, said ECOSOC had already made significant progress in its efforts to enhance coherence in such multifaceted work. Flexibility in programming was also important. In all discussions of the varied issues, however, the fundamental question should remain: "What change in policies and processes must be introduced to further the United Nations Development Agenda and the internationally agreed development goals?"

Roland Pierre, Minister of Planning and External Cooperation of Haiti, also made a statement.

Also speaking today were the representatives of Jamaica (on behalf of the "Group of 77" developing countries and China), United Kingdom (on behalf of the European Union and associated countries), Brazil, Trinidad and Tobago, Burundi, China, Nigeria.

In addition, the United Nations Resident Coordinators of Guinea-Bissau and Haiti made statements. A representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) also spoke.

The Economic and Social Council will meet again at 10 a.m. Tuesday, 19 July, to continue its general segment.

Background

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) met this afternoon to begin the general segment of its substantive session with a consideration of coordination, programme and other questions. The Council has before it a report on support for Haiti and one on African countries emerging from conflict. (For background on the current session, see Press Release ECOSOC/6154 dated 23 June.)

The report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti (document E/2005/66) summarizes the Group's work in the year since its reactivation in July 2004, including on results of a joint trip to the country with the Security Council in April. The report states that the new Government to be installed in February 2006 would face enormous challenges. However, progress had been made on macroeconomic stability and governance. There was also the possibility of a Highly Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) Initiative.

According to the report, the first action of the new Government should be to determine its short-, medium- and long-term priorities according to a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) to serve as the basis for the medium-term planning document. A broad range of civil society players should be engaged to create national dialogue. The focus should be on a limited number of key improvements to

show rapid progress. The sequence of activities would be critical in building stronger ministries and services. Also, in ensuring that steps to modernize the economy were of benefit to the poor.

The report addressed recommendations to ECOSOC, the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), the United Nations country team, the Haitian authorities and the donor community. They include the forming of a partnership between the Group and the Government to develop mechanisms to reinforce the coordination of long-term prospects for capacity-building support and to advocate for increased bilateral and multilateral cooperation between Haiti and others. Also, that the Group play a role in promoting socio-economic dimensions of the demobilization programme and identify sustainable resources to continue it. The Group could also play an advocacy role at the intergovernmental level on steps to alleviate chronic poverty. The United Nations system should play a robust and sustained role as the Group promoted a smooth transition to sustainable economic development once MINUSTAH's mandate is fulfilled.

In its report, the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau (document E/2005/70) again drew attention to the importance of addressing the security sector in the country, particularly during the current period of electoral rounds for a new president from among an initial 17 candidates. The second round is scheduled for the end of July. The report says that, in view of concern over political instability, the Secretary-General appointed a Special Envoy to Burundi in May. Other measures to address the insecurity include Security Council consideration and a declaration by an emergency session of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries that called on all parties to respect the inviolability of a transitional charter. It also stated that political normalization was a precondition for international assistance in reconstruction. Regional efforts to ensure calm involved the participation in talks of the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

The report concludes that Guinea-Bissau is a small country with complex problems and that the situation would remain fragile for some time. Therefore, weaknesses in the security sector must be addressed, including the growing ethnic division in the military and the availability of small arms. Also to be addressed are the need for predictable and adequate amounts of resources to ensure the delivery of basic services. Measures must be taken to augment the minimum functioning of the State that contributed to a sense of uncertainty and insecurity. In view of the lack of progress in economic and social spheres and with the danger of further fragmentation, the Group should continue to monitor the evolving situation, since any grievance could create fertile ground for further violence.

The Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Burundi says in its report (document E/2005/82) that the successful referendum on the post-transition Constitution in February was encouraging in the strong support voters had expressed. The subsequent swearing-in of the new President in August would mark the end of the transition process. Progress had also been made since December in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, with the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB) having disarmed and demobilized over 9,600 former combatants, including 3,000 child soldiers. However, challenges remained in the areas of returning refugees and internally displaced; food insecurity; health; economic growth; and insufficient economic governance for developing public infrastructures, promoting development and diversifying economic activities and exports.

The Group says that every effort needs to be made to sustain the peace process and improve the socio-economic living conditions during the transition period and immediately after. Recommendations are

focused on four themes: maintaining the momentum and consolidating the peace process; promoting stability; alleviating poverty and promoting sustainable development; and reinforcing international partnerships.

To capitalize on the great strides made during the United Nations presence, the Group recommends that it be allowed to continue its work during and beyond the transitional period, with the possibility of undertaking a mission to Burundi late this year. It also recommends maximizing donor support in the post-transition period, including through a round table the Group would promote with development partners such as the World Bank, to ensure the fragile new Government has the funding to implement recovery programmes. The Group urged the international community and donors to provide additional assistance for short- and long-term needs to fuel the transition from relief to development, since support for the Government with commensurate means and resources would be critical for ensuring that the peace process was irreversible.

Introduction of Segment

PATRIZIO CIVILI, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, introducing the general segment of the substantive session, said ECOSOC had already made significant progress in its efforts to enhance coherence in its overall work. The Secretariat had endeavoured to support that effort by structuring and preparing its reports so as to highlight linkages.

For further progress on this front, the broad consensus on the United Nations Development Agenda provided the framework, he said. Listing the components of the segment, he said that flexibility in programming was also important. In all discussions of the segment, however, the fundamental question should remain: “What change in policies and processes must be introduced to further the United Nations Development Agenda and the internationally agreed development goals?”

ALAN ROCK (Canada), Chair of the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, noted that, during a visit to Haiti in April, he was particularly struck by the fragility of the Haitian environment to natural disaster and that he was now paying greater attention to the progress of tropical storms and hurricanes.

He added that, while the Group recognized that the chief responsibility for building a stable and democratic country rested in the hands of the Haitian people, the international community must play a supporting role over the longer term. With that in mind, the Group would address its recommendations to ECOSOC, MINUSTAH, the United Nations country team, the Haitian authorities and the donor community.

He further noted that a great deal needed to be done to strengthen the legitimacy of State institutions in the eyes of the population. Engaging in a decentralized process of decision-making and resources, without diminishing the fragile authority of the central Government, was also necessary to unleash the economic potential of neglected departments.

In view of the fact that the new Government would need to focus on a few areas that would demonstrate to the Haitian people that action was being taken, consideration should be given to those “quick wins” identified by the Secretary-General’s Millennium Task Force that were appropriate in the Haitian context, while preparing the ground for longer-term investments in key areas. Attention

should also be given to the sequencing of activities in order to build stronger government ministries and services and to ensure that steps to modernize the economy had a positive effect on the poor. As a key element of justice sector reform, the new government would also need to revise legal codes and law enforcement services. Work was also under way to lay the foundation for a PRSP, which the incoming Government could consider as its medium-term planning document.

In closing, he said that much work remains to be done and the international community must recommit itself to accompanying the Haitian people in the process over the long term. In that context, in a letter dated 6 June, 2005, Haiti's Prime Minister Gérard Latortue wrote to the President of ECOSOC to request that the mandate of the Group be extended. Thus, he was tabling a resolution on behalf of all members of the Group for consideration of the Council.

ROLAND PIERRE, Minister of Planning and External Cooperation of Haiti, said the new Government had agreed to go forward in cooperation with ECOSOC in the large number of areas where real progress was still to be made. The ECOSOC had two important roles: advocacy and integration. First, ECOSOC facilitated the acceleration of development by forming links between Government and other players, including those in the donor community. Then, ECOSOC helped to implement and coordinate actions to be carried out.

He said donors had blocked the financing they had pledged for activities in his country, including after the disputed 2000 elections. The ECOSOC must be the advocate for developing countries in getting donors to respect the priorities national leaders set out in defining their programmes. It was the only way to win support for programmes at the local level. So, ECOSOC must help with mobilizing donors and facilitating partnerships. The role of integrating development measures into national programmes continued to fall to MINUSTAH. In the sustained pilot programme being developed, ECOSOC would be an intermediary with the Government and other actors. As with all developing countries now, Haiti's long-term programme would include a 10-year poverty-reduction strategy. It would be developed within the framework of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) not only with regard to developing the strategy, but also in implementing it.

ADAMA GUINDO, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Haiti and United Nations Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator, said that the country team had done everything possible to work with local authorities to set up ways of combating poverty in the long term. It launched a national dialogue on the Millennium Development Goals with both the population of Haiti and its political leaders.

The country team had also helped setting up the next budget and in advising on a long-term strategic plan. Among capacities that needed strengthening were justice, decentralization, legislative bodies and electoral councils, the Government had determined.

JANICE MILLER (Jamaica), on behalf of the "Group of 77" developing countries and China, said that the work of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group should continue to take into account the peculiarities of the situation confronting Haiti in addressing its development. It was important for the people to have a stake in the process. In addition, measures must be taken to avoid hindering in the disbursement of pledges, to allow for the early implementation employment-generation projects, which could minimize tensions.

Assistance should also include debt relief, she said, and be rendered in the priority areas of: policing; restoration of justice and the rule of law; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; human rights; and the improvement of the condition of the poor. The ECOSOC should continue to accompany Haiti on its path towards recovery and development. For that reason, the Group of 77 and China supported the renewal of the mandate of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti and called for adequate financial resources to be made available for its continued work.

JO MOIR (United Kingdom), on behalf of the European Union and associated countries, supported the way the Ad Hoc Group on Haiti had conducted its mandate by consulting all relevant partners. In addition, the joint mission with the Security Council demonstrated how development, human rights and security were strongly linked.

As the socio-economic, security and human rights situations in Haiti remained fragile and a matter of great concern, Haiti needed the sustained support of the international community, she said. For that purpose, the elaboration of a poverty-reduction strategy would be one of the key mechanisms to help the transitional government and its successors stay on track for long-term development.

In addition, she said, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration should be done in a long-term manner and be complemented by activities to build up the rule of law. Elections were critical to stability, and the European Union had committed €10 million to support them. In conclusion, she noted that the Group's experience could be taken into account in the broader context of ongoing discussions within the United Nations on the establishment of a Peacebuilding Commission.

BENEDICTO FONSECA FILHO (Brazil) thanked the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group Chairman for the comprehensive representation of the Group's activities and said that Brazil aligned itself with the Group statements and conclusions made on behalf of the Group. He noted that, although Haiti's problems required a long-term approach, some things must be addressed in the short term in order to ensure success. Free and fair elections later this year were the most pressing challenge facing Haiti, and Brazil believed that all elected officials should take office on 7 February 2006.

He also noted that there could be no genuine stability without positive developments in the areas of safe living conditions and the promotion of social and economic development. It was also essential to speed up implementation of "quick action" projects reflecting propriety areas identified by the Government.

ANTHONY DAVID EDGHILL (Trinidad and Tobago) said his country was part of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti. The dire socio-economic conditions that existed in the country must be addressed. It was obvious that progress could be made, since it had already been demonstrated in many areas. More funds must be channelled into making progress through government mechanisms, rather than through civil actors, since only strong government structures could address the broad improvements needed, such as building a strong infrastructure and judicial system. The insecurity must also be addressed by strengthening the demobilization programme to make it effective. Poverty could not be defeated as long as gangs kept people in terror.

Finally, he said, the international community must find a way to disburse the nearly \$2 billion that had been held back after being pledged in 1994. The Ad Hoc Advisory Group's mandate should be extended by a year, and all assistance must be provided to help the people of Haiti realize their human rights.

ANN LOW (United States) said the Ad Hoc Advisory Group must heed the Council's directive to avoid duplication and to not go beyond its mandate. The MINUSTAH was under the direction of the Security Council. The Group should not have called for its continuation.

ANDREJ PIROGOV (Russian Federation) said a clear strategy for the way forward in Haiti was lacking. The new Government must set out short-, medium- and long-term goals in cooperation with the Group. It was unfortunate the Group had not been able to avoid duplication of work with others.

Mr. ROCK (Canada), of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group, commenting on the statement of the United States, said that the mandate of the Group was to set up the framework for long-term development, and its recommendations on MINUSTAH and the United Nations country team were given towards that end. In addition, an integrated approach to getting Haiti out of its tough situation required a shared commitment and practical steps, while respect for jurisdictional issues should be maintained.

XOLISA MABHONGO (South Africa), introduced the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Burundi (document E/2005/82), saying support for socio-economic activities in the country must be sustained during this critical period. It was more crucial than ever to support capacity-building within the Government in critical areas.

Ms. MILLER (Jamaica), on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the case of Burundi now provided the international community with the real opportunity to ensure that the country did not relapse into conflict. The new Government and its people needed sustained support. She recognized the positive contribution made by donors, thus far, and called for the increased disbursement of funds committed at the Forum of Development Partners held in Brussels in 2004, and full financing of the Consolidated Appeal for 2005.

She also called on the Bretton Woods institutions to allow Burundi access to the HIPC Initiative. In addition, she supported the convening of a donor round table to bolster the new Government. Since the Ad Hoc Advisory Group had a role to play in the transition to development, she strongly supported the continuation of its work.

Ms. MOIR (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Union and associated countries, said the Union welcomed the progress made in Burundi over the past year, particularly with regard to the ongoing election process and the continuing forward momentum in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process. However, issues such as improving food security, preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing support to its victims, strengthening governance and encouraging sound financial management remained critical challenges.

The Union agreed with the Ad Hoc Group's recommendation that the international community should continue to provide strong support to the Government of Burundi to meet the short- and medium-term needs based on PRSP priorities and to finance the Consolidated Appeal Process for 2005.

However, although the Union remained committed to providing assistance for Burundi at this critical time, it believed that the modalities of that support should be decided on by the Government with lead donors, and, in that regard, the Union is not convinced of the value of the Ad Hoc Group promoting another donor round-table meeting. She also said that the Ad Hoc Group had played a useful role so far and should continue until the new Government of Burundi was in place. But, after that, a further extension of the mandate should be considered by ECOSOC, while also taking developments on the Peacebuilding Commission into consideration. Further, the experience of the Ad Hoc Advisory Groups could be taken into account in the broader context of ongoing discussions within the United Nations on the establishment of a Peacebuilding Commission.

Mr. PIROGOV (Russian Federation) expressed gratitude to the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Africa and noted that Burundi's success will be marked by the consolidation of social progress and progress towards sustainable development. He also said that continued international attention and support was important for a successful transition.

LÉONIDAS NKINGIYE (Burundi) said the transition period in his country would come to an end with the election at the end of this month. Countries should use their influence to make sure the negotiations for peace were successful, because the war had wreaked havoc. As neighbours and partners could attest, coffee production had dropped and the economy had suffered. The number of poor had doubled since the hostilities broke out, and the value of the currency had dropped. Meantime, foreign debt continued to be a great challenge and meeting internal needs was beyond the means of the national treasury. The demobilization programmes and those to fight AIDS were expensive. The Government was taking all measures to implement the HIPC Initiative. Donors and development partners were welcome and the Ad Hoc Group's mandate should continue.

LIV ZHONGXIN (China) said successful election processes in both Burundi and Guinea-Bissau showed the two countries were on their way back to stability and democracy. However, many challenges stood before each country, and the international community must help them with concrete actions, such as technical assistance. Her country had been involved with the development process in both countries, including by providing economic, technical and political support. It would continue to engage with both countries.

ADO VAHER, of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), said that, while there has been significant progress made in the political transition, children were still facing daunting challenges and high mortality rates from mostly preventable diseases, in an environment characterized by widespread poverty and limited public authority capacities.

Women and children also continued to bear the greatest share of the hardship and suffering from the aftermath of the conflict, including violence, internal and external displacements, sexual exploitation and abuse, separation of families, destruction of social infrastructure and reduced access to basic social services such as health, education and water.

In working with other partners, UNICEF had supported programmes to respond to the deterioration in the provision of basic social services to the neediest and most vulnerable segments of the population in

the areas of health and nutrition, education, water and sanitation, HIV/AIDS and protection. In an effort to leverage results for children, partnerships were established with United Nations country team members, civil society at large, and national and international non-governmental organizations.

In highlighting some key results, UNICEF said the back-to-school programme in Burundi had helped return half a million children to school, immunization rates had increased, new treatment protocols for malaria had been approved and 2.2 million cases had been treated with new drugs provided by UNICEF. Also, close to 3,000 child soldiers had been demobilized and reintegrated into their communities and capacity-building activities were undertaken for support and care of sexual violence victims. In partnership with other United Nations agencies, UNICEF was also helping to meet the needs of 80,000 returnees.

The general situation had continued to improve, but programme implementation had faced prominent challenges, he said. The challenges included: lack of security and stability; the ongoing sexual exploitation and abuse of children; child labour; and numerous HIV/AIDS orphans and conflict orphans -- 620,000 in Burundi -- with little or no access to basic services, such as health and education. The conflict had resulted in the near collapse of social sectors and, as refugees continued to return home to Burundi, the land tenure issues were a greater challenge to ensuring peaceful and equitable reinstallation and reintegration.

In conclusion, he said UNICEF supported the Ad Hoc Advisory Group's recommendations focusing on maintaining the momentum and consolidating the peace process, on promoting stability and alleviating poverty, on sustainable development and on reinforcing international partnership. The UNICEF intended to remain an active partner in the Burundi transition and use its experience to continue to support the fulfilment of the rights and needs of children and women in Burundi.

DOTUN ODUNEYE (Nigeria), speaking as Chair of the African Union, commended Burundi and the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Burundi for its work in that country. She called for the Group to continue with its work until the new government came into office and issued a call to international donors to continue to support Burundi's ongoing transition.

Mr. MABHONGO (South Africa) introduced the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau (document E/2005/70). He said that there was good news to report since the report was released: elections were successfully held on 19 June. The situation remained fragile, however, and many problems remained, including a cholera epidemic. He called for emergency technical assistance to help deal with that problem. A capacity-building plan and an economic diversification plan for the country were also urgently needed, and he called for the country's partners to boost their investments in those areas, as well as in the reorganization of security forces.

MICHEL BALIMA, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Guinea-Bissau, said that the 19 June elections were considered free and fair, with high turnout in a peaceful atmosphere. The international community assisted greatly in that success, as did the armed forces and civil society. The United Nations agencies, the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS), and other international institutions had formed an effective partnership, along with bilateral donors, towards assisting the Government to resume social services and reduce tensions by paying salaries.

Despite the gains made, he said great challenges remained. Sixty-six per cent of the population was unemployed and around 44 per cent had no access to clean drinking water. At the same time, the Government was heavily in debt and was running large deficits. Investment was needed in education and other sectors that could build human capacity, as well as in sectors that could expand economic growth. Initiatives to reform the armed forces were ongoing and the United Nations country team was implementing quick-impact and microcredit projects. He urged donor governments to provide support in all those areas at the round-table conference, to put Guinea-Bissau solidly on the road to stability and development.

Ms. MILLER (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, acknowledged that the Ad Hoc Advisory Group had done well to keep Guinea-Bissau on the international agenda. However, the country was in need of sustained assistance from the international community to survive and continue its progress. She also said that the Group of 77 endorsed an expansion of the donor base, and she called for Guinea-Bissau to play a role in the planning of a donor round. She further noted that the Group of 77 was in full support of the extension of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group's mandate.

MARIA ANTONIETA PINTO LOPES D'ALVA (Guinea-Bissau), associating her statement with that made by Jamaica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, thanked the members of the Ad Hoc Group for their hard work and dedication to her country's cause. Despite the ups and downs of the country from 2002 to date, the Group had been consistent in its advocacy on behalf of the country and in its recognition of the vital link between political stability and economic and social development.

She said the elections of this year and last were concrete signs of the commitment by the people, the Government and civil society to build durable peace and stability. However, the country still remained in a fragile situation. After elections were completed, it would still need the strong support of the international community to solve its urgent problems in the areas of public administration and the education and health sectors.

She thanked the United Nations and its partners for its assistance in the elections, and also thanked bilateral partners for their assistance in battling the cholera epidemic. She called on both old and new partners to strongly participate in the donor round table to be held in the last trimester of 2005. She stood fully behind the conclusions of the preparatory meeting for that round table, including the need for further improvements in the Government's financial management.

Mr. PIROGOV (Russian Federation) said he supported the direction the Ad Hoc Group on Guinea-Bissau was taking, particularly in bringing back multilateral donors such as the World Bank. The question of efficiency should be considered with regard to both Groups. Their purpose must not be forgotten. They were to be special interim ECOSOC instruments and repeated extension of mandates defeated the purpose. Conclusions in reports should relate to activities of the anticipated Peacebuilding Commission. Reports should also reflect the coordination of actions between ECOSOC and the Security Council.

Comic D.L. Hughley plans to riff on current events in late-night show
Tom Jicha, TV and Radio Writer
Published July 19, 2005
South Florida Sun-Sentinel

BEVERLY HILLS -- Prime time for Comedy Central is more closely aligned with the club scene than with mainstream television. Things don't perk up until much of America is getting ready to lie down.

"It may surprise you to hear that only a hundredth of a rating point separates our prime-time and late-night viewing average," said Lauren Corrao, Comedy Central's executive vice president for programming. On the broadcast networks, ratings plunge at 11 p.m. as if they fell off a skyscraper.

"Young adults are watching television differently than they did in the past," Corrao said. "They start watching later in the evening and they watch until the earlier hours of the morning. As a result, we're investing a lot of money into late-night programming."

Among those investments is in a talk show hosted by D.L. Hughley. One of the Original Kings of Comedy, Hughley was a finalist for the post-Letterman slot on CBS, which eventually went to Craig Ferguson.

Hughley wonders how seriously he was considered. "CBS ain't had black people since The Jeffersons," he quipped. "Every time I see a brother on CBS, he's getting indicted for something."

This is the type of irreverent attitude he'll bring to his Comedy Central program, which will air at 11 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday (the nights when The Daily Show is off) starting July 29.

"I think there's a void in late-night television -- comedy and talk that's not driven by actors' egos," Hughley said. "We're going to do a show that's conversational, people sitting down talking about fun things that everybody else in the country happens to be talking about."

Apparently, he intends to stretch the definition of fun things. For example, if he had been doing a show the past few weeks, he would have considered the tragedy of the missing young woman in Aruba to be fair game. "If I was doing a monologue, it's interesting to me that half the island of Aruba is arrested. They sent more Marines to Aruba to look for this woman than they did to Haiti to break up the coup. That's a funny thing for me to talk about."

If the story is still in the news when he debuts, he might create a skit about it. "We're going to go to Aruba to interview the chief of police and find out the whole island has been arrested. After the interview, the chief of police will promptly arrest himself."

The half-hour program will feature guests but not the usual array of stars plugging their latest projects, Hughley said. "When I watch late-night TV, oftentimes it seems to be a marketing tool for whoever's on that night. I think there are so many funny and interesting things that happen that people really never get a chance to talk about. Late-night television is what I've always wanted to do. We plan on knocking the doors off this thing and seeing what we get."

Another wild man

Comedy Central's late-night initiative also features a new show starring Adam Carolla, Jimmy Kimmel's old partner on *The Man Show* and a star of *Crank Yankers*.

Carolla, whose program will run at 11:30 Monday through Friday starting Aug. 8, is even more uninhibited than Hughley. The third night of Kimmel's ABC program, he brought a milk carton of vodka and instigated wholesale drunkenness on the air. Kimmel, Carolla and the other guests wound up deep-frying almost everything on the set.

Legend has it that ABC ordered the tape destroyed, so the program would never be seen again.

It wasn't an act, Carolla says. "I got loaded. I must have done seven or eight shots. The real show was the radio show I did about an hour later. That was awesome."

Comedy Central might be the one network not concerned about the possibility of an encore. "This is a different environment," said Daniel Kellison, who used to be Kimmel's executive producer and now is running Carolla's new show. "Comedy Central encourages that kind of recklessness."

Carolla is unlikely to disappoint. He doesn't have a well-conceived blueprint for the program, other than that it will feature him doing whatever strikes him as funny at the time. "It's going to probably be a little less of what's in the news and a little more of what's in my head," he said.

There will be guests but Carolla isn't counting on them to carry the show. "We're not kidding ourselves. We're not going to get A-list celebrities. Or B-list. Or even C. We might get some C-minus celebrities." Indeed, he claims he doesn't want big names, because he doesn't want to have to kowtow to them.

His ideal guests are people with a strange story or bizarre experience to relate. "There are guys out there who have been half eaten by sharks or flown around the world in a single-seater airplane or had to cut their own arm off because they got trapped under a boulder when camping."

In Carolla's view, "There's nothing worse than having some huge celebrity, who you can't talk to about the good stuff. If you get the guy who just flew his hang glider into the side of a cliff, you get to ask him anything."

Haitian music festival scheduled for Aug. 5
Herald Staff Report
Miami Herald
July 17, 2005

A free music festival marking the 50th anniversary of Haitian compas music has been tentatively scheduled for Aug. 5 in North Miami's Griffing Park.

"North Miami has become more of a little Haiti than we have in Miami now," said organizer Carline Paul. "We're trying to build a bridge of culture, and we invite non-Haitians to come and understand these new cultures."

The festival is scheduled noon to 7 p.m. at the park, on West Dixie Highway, north of NE 122nd Street. The city council approved the request to use the park, but said organizers must buy liability insurance and negotiate with city police to pay for security.

Paul said organizers are tallying the costs to see if sponsors will pay for the free event and will decide this week if it's feasible. A musical line-up will be announced then, she said.

Several council members at the July 12 meeting said the city needed more time to prepare and organizers should have approached them sooner. Some radio ads for the event were aired before the city was approached, council member Jacque Despinosse said.

"It looks like they went too far and they should have come to us first," Despinosse said. Paul responded that organizers have been trying to set up the show for a month but the city's procedures were not clear.

Paul said between 1,500 and 2,000 people are expected to attend the event.

Terror and Justice
Common Sense
John Maxwell
Sunday, July 17, 2005
Jamaica Observer

Many people believe that writing a column is duck soup. You just think of something that intrigues, concerns or provokes you in some way, sit down and blast off. It isn't that simple; and it can be a horribly frustrating job.

John Maxwell

For instance, I had this week intended to review a new book by the Caribbean scholar Clinton Hutton, entitled *The Cosmological roots of Haitian freedom: the logic and historical significance of the Haitian revolution*.

Dr Hutton's book is no less than a bold and, in my opinion, entirely successful guerrilla attack on the premises of modern historiography, an overwhelmingly racist enterprise whose major purpose has been to relegate Africa and all its children to an enclosure of historical curiosae, a kind of intellectual zoo.

Hutton quotes Toussaint's reply to Napoleon Bonaparte, who had attempted to impose conditions on Haiti's sense of self, after the Haitians had already thrown out one Napoleonic army and were on the point of defeating a second.

"It is not a circumstantial liberty conceded to us that we wish, but the unequivocal adoption of the principle that no man, whether he be born red, black or white, can become the property of his fellowmen."

As Hutton says: "Toussaint's incisive reply to Bonaparte must be counted philosophically and politically as one of the most radical, most important epistemological and ontological statements on justice in human intercourse, not only of the modern age, but of any age..

Hutton. his new book a bold and successful guerrilla attack on the premises of modern historiography Soon the revolution would combine abolition with self-determination, thereby transforming it from an anti-slavery revolution to a national liberation/anticolonial revolution: the first such revolution in the modern world."

The Haitians spoke of and demanded the recognition of universal human rights, and insisted that civilisation demanded justice for all, no matter the colour of the skin or any other characteristic. It is a principle not recognised by the world until 1948 after the second war to entrench freedom in the world.

Hutton points out that while there has never been mainstream recognition of these key tenets of political philosophy as Haitian cum universal, they have, however, been colonised by, and/or subsumed in the western philosophical tradition, reinforcing the epistemology of silence on the one

hand, and perpetuating the myth of the West as the cognitive basis for defining, knowing and certifying things on the other hand.

Hutton argues persuasively that the voodoo religion - misinterpreted, libeled and denigrated by western scholars - was the magma in which was syncretised the whole "thinking and knowing of the enslaved, the cosmological bases and context of the meanings they created, inherited, recreated, adopted, adapted, weaved and quilted to explain the nature of their being, their existential reality, their hopes and aspirations, and to guide their action to mediate, manipulate, neutralise and overcome the encumbrances imposed on their lives" by the European 'soul-thieves'.

Hutton concludes by noting that the Haitian elites, in the process of their own identity construction, were purposeful agents in the "silencing and marginalisation of the centrality of Africa and the African Diaspora in the making of the Haitian revolution" so that "the retracing of Haitian freedom, identity and certitude to French knowing and being became a modus operandi of elite agency in the social, political, cultural and economic development of Haiti".

The Haitian elite are once again riding high, backed by the United States, France, Canada and the United Nations itself in what must surely be the greatest betrayal of human rights in history. Last week, Mr Jack Straw apologised to the Bosnian Muslims for the neglect which caused the deaths of 3,000 in Srebrenica.

The forces of evil have already killed more than that in Haiti. And last week the United Nations troops in Haiti, under the command of a Brazilian general, massacred uncounted numbers of Haitians in a successful attempt to assassinate the leader of the poor people of the Cite Soleil, a slum as big as Kingston, and the natural product of American and French interference and exploitation of Haiti over two centuries.

American spokesmen are still as vulgar and stupid as William Jennings Bryan, American secretary of state who, in 1915, was dumbstruck at the idea of 'Niggers speaking French!' Mr Bush must be scandalised.

Bryan's modern day equivalent, Luigi Einaudi, the (American) assistant secretary-general of the Organisation of American States (OAS), retired two weeks ago, to the hypocritical encomiums of such as the black Caribbean's spokesperson for the occasion, a lady named Mrs Sonia Johnny, from St Lucia. She said Einaudi was a "facilitator in the ongoing quest for consensus".

She, poor soul, was probably not aware of Mr Einaudi's real claim to fame, his statement in Haiti, a year ago, that the only thing wrong with Haiti was that it was being run by Haitians. And the OAS and UN speak of the inalienable right to self-determination.

But these days, vulgar racist ignoramuses like Einaudi are thick on the ground. It must have something to do with global warming which allows lower forms of life to flourish.

Belgian Roulette

The Belgian Government has thrown a spanner in the works of the debt forgiveness charade which the G8 so proudly hailed two weeks ago as a new dawn for Africa.

The Belgians, ever mindful of the civilised niceties, think that forgiving Third World debt will set a bad example and encourage 'moral hazard'.

As far as they are concerned, Third World debt resulted from spending sprees embarked upon by the feckless borrowers of the Third World, and not, as some of us see it, the inevitable consequence of the starvation wages we got from producing ever more at ever cheaper rates to satisfy the inexhaustible hunger of the First World for our diamonds, uranium, bananas, sugar and aluminium.

We are irresponsible children, in need of moral guidance.
Oh! for a King Leopold to set the world to rights!

Or, perhaps, a Bernie Ebbers, sentenced to 25 years imprisonment last week for defrauding his shareholders of \$75 billion, a tad more than the West is offering in debt forgiveness and aid to the entire developing world, beset by AIDS, global warming and, of course, hurricanes.

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Men For Missions Continue to “Saturate” Haiti With the Gospel Message
July 16, 2005
The Christian Post

Haiti – Men For Missions, the laymen’s arm of OMS, move closer to meeting their goals in “Operation Saturation,” that would ensure all Haitians access to the Gospel through radio broadcasts.

The "Every Creature Crusade (ECC)" committee met with the ministry leader to see which of the areas where Operation Saturation has done radio distribution are most ready for an ECC team to enter and minister. Some do not have an evangelical church in the area, and they need wisdom as they place their next team.

Nonetheless, ECC reports that people are responding to the Gospel. According to staff members, 13 baptisms were held this month, eight at Gaudin, and five at Bayeux, the first baptism for this ECC work that began in February.

The next phase of the project comes with the necessary approvals for expanding the ministry of Radio 4VEH, as well as the financial backing for day-to-day operations.

The next partner station is to be on the Southern peninsula, where 4VEH now reaches only the area around the shore. The building is up, and now they're waiting for the container with the studio equipment to arrive by ship from the U.S.

Men For Missions asks believers to pray for Haiti, where ongoing unrest, economic problems, and other social stresses daily scathe the people.

**St Vincent & the Grenadines to assist Cuba and Haiti
by Kenton Chance
Caribbean Net News Correspondent
Monday, July 18, 2005**

KINGSTOWN, St Vincent: Cuba and Haiti will receive US\$50,000 each from the government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to assist with their recovery from damage sustained during the passage of Hurricane Dennis.

SVG's Prime Minister Dr. Gonsalves said the assistance will go directly to non-governmental organisation in Haiti rather than Gerard Latortue-led Haitian administration.

The Gonsalves administration in SVG does recognise the Latortue government as a legitimate one.

However, the assistance to Cuba will go to the Fidel Castro-led communist government which has given generously to SVG over the years.

Hurricane Dennis struck Cuba claiming 16 lives, destroying over 120,00 homes, 16,000 hectares of crops, at an estimated cost of US\$1.4 billion.

Cuba and Venezuela are supporting St. Vincent and the Grenadines in the launching of a national Eye Care Programme.

Prime Minister, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves told the Vincentian media that the two Spanish-speaking countries will finance the initiative.

Cuban medical professionals are expected to arrive in SVG soon and the service is expected to be an itinerant one that will be dispensed through and at the various public health-care centres throughout the country.

Full acuity/visual tests and ophthalmic examinations will be conducted.

Those diagnosed as being in need of corrective surgery can expect to be referred to specialist hospitals in Cuba.

Visual deficiencies are prevalent in SVG and rank behind (only) chronic diseases (diabetes, hypertension) and dental defects as major recurring health problems in the country.

British professor leads Haitian revolution lecture series

By Ana Ribeiro / Staff Writer

The Beacon

Published: Monday, July 18, 2005

An assorted audience of culture and history aficionados gathered at FIU's Biscayne Bay Campus to listen to British Professor David Geggus, who has turned his fascination of the Haitian Revolution into a PhD and traveled the world to shed light on a tale strewn with slaves, controversy and global repercussions.

Geggus' lecture, entitled "The Haitian Revolution: Big Questions and Small Ones," kicked off the African-Haitian Summer Institute Distinguished Lecture Series on July 6.

The lecture was held at the BBC Library with a gathering of about 30 people that included Vice-Provost Raul Moncarz and Professor Mike Collier.

"It's really an excellent program because it's interdisciplinary," Moncarz said, referring to the collaboration between the Latin American and Caribbean Center and the African New-World Studies Department in organizing free lectures open to the public throughout the summer.

According to Moncarz, the lectures started last year, when the Haitian Summer Institute was moved from the University Park campus to BBC.

"LACC thinks [BBC] is a better venue because of location and faculty expertise," Moncarz said.

Collier, the LACC research director, said both he and Moncarz are teaching Summer B courses on the same days the lectures take place, Mondays and Wednesdays.

Moncarz teaches Economics of the Caribbean, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.; and Collier teaches International Relations of the Caribbean, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

"[We want to provide] two days of complete Caribbean immersion," said Collier, who also organized trips to Haiti until 2003, when major turmoil hit the nation close to the bicentennial anniversary of its independence.

Haiti became independent in 1804, a fact that came to intrigue Professor Geggus almost 200 years later.

Geggus, who has been a history professor at the University of Florida for 22 years, said his interest in the Haitian Revolution stemmed from studies that indicated the Caribbean nation's uprising was rather European in origin.

Santa Cruz Independent Media Center
18 Jul 2005 09:00:57 AM

On the morning of July 6, 2005, more than 350 heavily armed United Nations "peacekeeping" forces killed at least 23 unarmed people in the densely populated Port-au-Prince neighborhood of Cite Soleil. Some estimates indicate that 50 or more may have died.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Liberation News denounces the slaughter that has been carried out in Haiti by the UN. We continue our calls since the beginning of the U.S. invasion and coup against Aristide to call for the withdrawal of all U.S. and U.N. troops.

We endorse the following actions sponsored by the Haiti Action Committee and its demands, minus their call to reinstall Aristide. We instead call for the self-determination of the Haitian people, which may or may not include the reinstatement of Aristide after the fall of the rightwing UN/death-squad government.

- * Stop the UN "Peace-Keeping" Massacres in Haiti!
- * End the UN Occupation of Haiti!
- * Uphold the Right of the Haitian People to Self-Determination, Free From All Foreign Intervention!

The horrific role the UN has played in Haiti is a good negative lesson in why Liberation News was so adamant in our opposition to the Peace and Freedom Party's presidential candidate's call for the U.S. out and the U.N. in to Iraq and why this became one of a couple split issues from that party when the state chair of the party simultaneously tried to cover-up and defend that position.

Liberation News remains committed to the need for a revolutionary party in the United States that, unlike the Peace and Freedom Party, is clear on issues of war and peace in the battle against imperialism. We also stand for building a party that does not on principle ever endorse any candidate of the pro-war, pro-police state Democrat Party.

Instead we call for the Liberation of humanity and a ravaged planet from the scourge of capitalism and its wars. We reject both the Democrat and Republican Parties as capitalist parties of war, racism, union busting, sexism, homophobia, environmental degradation and corporate exploitation.

We instead seek to build revolutionary socialism as the working class alternative. In contrast to the Democratic Party, including its most left wing, we stand in firm opposition to all US/UN wars. We understand that the US wages wars for one reason: empire and arms sales that equal corporate profit. The myth of UN humanitarianism must be countered by the truth that the UN is used around the world to the service of imperialism.

The working class interests that Liberation News represents are those that do not want our sons and daughters to be sacrificed on the alter of war for corporate profit and who want our tax dollars to be spent on social programs at home. In addition we want the people of the world to live in freedom from

the terror and exploitation of U.S. and European imperialism. We call for socialist revolution in America to end the dictatorial power of the wealthy, for a redistribution of the wealth, and for a planned economy run to meet human and environmental needs as the true road to ending imperialism and war.

Sincerely, Steven Argue for Liberation News

[Simultaneous protests in other cities: Check w/your local activists for details or go to www.haitiaction.net]

* EMERGENCY PROTEST!

* STOP U.N. "PEACEKEEPER" MASSACRES IN HAITI!

On the morning of July 6, 2005, more than 350 heavily armed United Nations "peacekeeping" forces killed at least 23 unarmed people in the densely populated Port-au-Prince neighborhood of Cite Soleil. Some estimates indicate that 50 or more may have died. The UN Force Commander, Brazilian Lt. General Augusto Heleno, claims there was a "firefight," yet there were no UN deaths or injuries.

THIS WAS A MASSACRE. Photographic evidence and eyewitness testimony confirm that the U.N. murdered unarmed civilians, including a 4-year old child, shot through the head.

Cite Soleil has been the focus of attacks by both UN forces and the Haitian police because it remains a powerful base of support for the democratically elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and the Lavalas movement. The U.N. operation targeted and killed Emmanuel "Dred" Wilme, a well-known community leader in Cite Soleil, who had been in the forefront of the neighborhood's resistance to the illegal coup regime. The attack came just a few days after U.S. Ambassador to Haiti James Foley labeled Haitian grassroots activists as "terrorists" and "gang members", sending a clear signal that it was now open season on civilians.

Since a U.S.-orchestrated coup overthrew the democratic government in February 2004, a United Nations force of 7500 troops has occupied Haiti. The U.N. has supported the coup regime, which has killed and imprisoned thousands of innocent people. As the U.N. mouths its concerns for human rights around the world, it attacks the poorest communities in Haiti and backs up the violent repression carried out by the Haitian police. Brazil continues to do the bidding of the United States by heading-up this brutal U.N. military operation in Haiti.

On July 21, there will be coordinated protests in many U.S. and Canadian cities to condemn the U.N. massacre in Cite Soleil. Please join us!

**END THE U.S./U.N. OCCUPATION OF HAITI!
RESTORE DEMOCRACY AND PRESIDENT ARISTIDE!**

Thursday, July 21st

Gather: 4 P.M. - Powell and Market, San Francisco
March to Brazilian Consulate, 300 Montgomery: 4:30 P.M.
Followed by Picket at the Brazilian Consulate.

Sponsored by the HAITI ACTION COMMITTEE

For more information:

www.haitiaction.net haitiaction (at) yahoo.com 510.483.7481

Bastille Day hums to international beat

By Siddhartha Mitter, Globe Correspondent

July 18, 2005

Boston Globe

Sékouba Bambino, Daby Touré, Emeline Michel

At: the French Library Bastille Day street party, Friday

Earlier in the day, however, the planned headliners, Congolese superstar Papa Wemba and his band, were unable to board their flight in Paris due to visa problems. The organizers recovered in style by persuading the Guinean master Sekouba Bambino to add a stop to his North American tour. He played first in order to catch a late flight out.

Bambino is a veteran of a crucial band in his country's independent history, Bembeya Jazz National, which formed in the 1960s and remains active today. His set was a gem in the classic style of sounds from Guinea and Mali. As an elegant guitarist unleashed line after line of sweet singing melody, Bambino mixed incantations on timeless human themes -- the avoidance of cruelty, the importance of trust -- with honorific shoutouts to the African nations represented in the crowd, as well as to Boston itself.

The torch then passed to the younger generation, in the form of emerging Mauritanian star Daby Toure, whose father played in the 1980s Senegal-based outfit Toure Kunda. Toure, who lives in Paris, performed in a more accessible, international style, with blunter rhythms and a powerful bass, and more than a few hints of reggae. During an impressive set he ignited the crowd, returning drenched in sweat for a triumphant encore.

In her second Boston appearance this year, Haitian singer Emeline Michel slipped into the headliner role with ease and grace. Her take on kompas, Haiti's signature sound, is at once folksy and sexy, underscored by her beautiful dancing. Her themes are earnest and hopeful, deeply marked by the endless political crisis in her country, which at the moment is traversing a particularly rough phase.

Ironically, this Bastille Day festival featured no French artists, but ones from nations that famously rejected French rule: Haiti two centuries ago, and Guinea in 1958. Even Daby Toure had the crowd chanting and dancing to a song in honor of Samory Toure, a Malinke hero who fought the French in the 19th century.

But when Michel paused to honor a close friend, Haitian journalist Jacques Roche, whose tortured corpse was discovered the previous day, it was a reminder that the Bastille Day themes of liberation and equality are still urgent and universal today.

Haiti's PM Unveils New Initiatives in Memory of Slain Journalist **By VOA News**

19 July 2005

Haitian Prime Minister Gerard Latortue has unveiled some new initiatives in memory of Jacques Roche, a local journalist who was kidnapped and murdered in Port-au-Prince last week.

In an interview with VOA's Creole Service, Mr. Latortue said he will consult with Minister of Interior Paul Magloire on an initiative to name the street where the journalist's body was found after Mr. Roche. He also said the country will observe a day of mourning on July 21, the day of Mr. Roche's funeral.

Haitian authorities discovered Mr. Roche's body last Thursday, four days after armed gunmen abducted him.

On other issues, Mr. Latortue said there is no doubt a presidential election will be held later this year despite on-going violence.

Haiti has seen a mounting wave of violence ahead of the election. Hundreds of people have been killed since September

Ex-Aristide aide tells of payoffs
BY JAY WEAVER

Miami Herald

July 20, 2005

The former chief of security for ousted Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide testified Tuesday that a powerful drug-trafficking defendant on trial gave him and other law enforcement officials hundreds of thousands of dollars to protect his alleged cocaine shipments to the United States.

But Oriel Jean did not implicate the former president, exiled in South Africa since his ouster last year, saying only that he and others received money from reputed Haitian drug kingpin Serge Edouard to help export tons of Colombian cocaine.

Prosecutor Lynn Kirkpatrick, however, did not explicitly ask Jean if he or Edouard ever gave any money to the deposed president in recent years, when Haiti was known as "narco-country" because of the stream of cocaine moving through the island.

Jean said he gave Edouard a national security badge in 2002 that allowed him to travel throughout the country without having to be searched by Haitian National Police or other law enforcement officials in the capital or at the airport.

"He told me that I was a member of the organization and that he would share his profits," said Jean, 40, testifying in Creole. Edouard, he said, gave him \$40,000 and bought him a \$25,000 Toyota luxury vehicle that came with a rebate.

Jean -- who has pleaded guilty to a money-laundering conspiracy charge and hopes to reduce his upcoming sentence -- is the first witness close to Aristide to testify in the first trial involving a major Haitian drug-trafficking defendant in the 3-year-old federal probe. The trial is expected to end this week.

MILLIONS IN COCAINE

Edouard, 43, is accused of shipping tons of cocaine in shoes, suitcases and cargo containers on American Airlines flights to the United States and pocketing more than \$15 million. He allegedly spent the money on homes, businesses and speedboats, and opened bank accounts for his half-dozen children, according to an indictment.

At least 13 other defendants have been charged in the investigation, led by the Drug Enforcement Administration, FBI and IRS. They continue to focus on Aristide as a target.

No evidence, however, has been presented in court that links the deposed president to the alleged cocaine-smuggling and money-laundering conspiracy. But at a sentencing hearing last year, another

convicted Haitian cocaine smuggler, Jacques Ketant, blurted out that Aristide was a "drug lord." The statement was not made under oath.

Aristide's attorney called the characterization ``political assassination."

On Tuesday, Jean said a former Haitian National Police commander, Hermione Leonard, introduced him to Edouard in December 2001 or January 2002.

By then, Jean said that he and other senior police and airport security officials were already taking kickbacks from Colombian and Haitian drug-traffickers who used the impoverished island to ship cocaine to South Florida, New York and Canada.

Leonard is believed to be in custody in the Dominican Republic, awaiting extradition to the United States.

Jean said the Haitian National Police's chief of security at the Port-au-Prince airport, Romaine Lestin, was key to moving Edouard's alleged cocaine shipments to the United States. He also said Lestin arranged for payments in U.S. currency to arrive at the airport so that Edouard could receive proceeds from the alleged drug sales.

Lestin is awaiting his own trial.

CRITICAL SUSPECT

Another critical suspect, Evintz Brillant, former head of the Haitian National Police's anti-narcotics brigade, also faces trial.

Jean described Edouard as a benevolent "boss," who took care of family members, law enforcement officials and the Port-au-Prince police, including buying them cruisers.

Even Edouard's half-brothers -- twins Hugues and Hubert, who have been convicted and testified against him on Tuesday -- said that he took care of them after their father died in 1993.

He brought them into the family's lottery business and then they became partners in his alleged cocaine business, they testified.

Both half-brothers, 35, said they were assisting prosecutors to reduce their sentences and to come clean.

St Kitts's greatest hit

A tiny Caribbean festival is the perfect stage for Wyclef Jean, ex-Fugee, star of hip-hop and Haitian philanthropist.

Ronke Phillips catches him after the show

20 July 2005

The Independent Online

The two things happen simultaneously - Wyclef Jean steps on stage, and the heavens open. The crowd is soaked but doesn't move, and the band pump out the bassline of "Ready or Not".

A slender figure, clasping a custom-made, diamond-encrusted guitar, bounces up to stage front. "We ain't frightened of the rain! You frightened of the rain?" Thousands yell: "No!"

Wyclef Jean's concert has begun. Five thousand people jump to the rhythm, punching their fists, as Jean teases them with a medley of hits from *The Score*, the album that catapulted him to stardom with his former band, The Fugees. And suddenly the rain stops.

It's the penultimate day of the St Kitts Music Festival, one of the best-kept secrets in the Caribbean. For four days every year, this island of just 36,000 people rocks.

One of the smallest and most beautiful of the Caribbean islands, St Kitts is unspoilt, with sandy coves, rainforest, lush green terrain and dormant volcanic peaks. The people are friendly, the climate tropical and the old plantation architecture still intact.

St Kitts makes enough money to support itself from its sugar-cane industry, but only just. It needs another source of income and, like many of its Caribbean neighbours, it has turned to tourism. The music festival is an important part of that.

Jean is at his decks, mixing through hip-hop versions of music of every genre - soul, reggae, blues, Latin, classical, jazz, rock, pop and then country and western. He tells the story of a collaboration he did with Kenny Rogers and plays the recording; then a sample from a studio session with Michael Jackson, recorded the day before his arrest. Jackson's voice sounds childlike and timid next to Jean's.

Then the heavy bass is back as Jean raps his way through dancehall and reggae hits. The mood reaches fever pitch.

Now in its ninth year, the festival has attracted some of the biggest names in the industry: Alicia Keys, Shaggy, Hugh Masekela and Gladys Knight have all performed here. For four days, hotel lobbies are jammed as the fans of rappers, resplendent in bling, rub shoulders with country and western fans in Stetsons. Dark glasses mark out the jazz fans, who look staid next to the Rastas.

Day one consisted mainly of Caribbean bands, but the old-timers Black Stallion stole the first show. The reggae legend John Holt's set was on day two; for a man who's been in the business for four decades, he has incredible energy. Also on the bill were the 17-year-old Canadian Keshia Chanté, one to watch, and local bands Bamboo B and TOK.

A huge crowd turned out to see the US rapper Ludacris, who kept his swearing and misogynistic comments to a minimum. He'd probably been told that St Kitts is not afraid to enforce its strict decency laws. Two years ago, the American rapper DMX was arrested for swearing on stage.

Despite a big build-up, Boyz 2 Men were disappointing. The trio's voices are as good as ever, but they sang to a backing track. They should have taken a lead from the soul-funk veterans Atlantic Star, who still know how to entertain.

On paper, the odd note was the C&W legend Kenny Rogers - but he went down a storm, attracting the most multicultural audience. And the man most came to see - and all left talking about - was Wyclef Jean.

Still buzzing from his colossal performance, Wyclef Jean is trying to unwind back at his hotel. It's 5am. I'm surprised to see a huge diamond-encrusted pendant around his neck. His lyrics are, after all, passionately anti-gangster.

"I bought this as a tribute to my father, who died in 2001. The older my dad got, the more we talked. One of the last conversations I had with him was about the Lion of Judah. He told me I should always live my life like a lion, hold my head up high and be proud of who I am. So when he died, I had this pendant made. I don't always wear it but I always have it with me.

"I don't buy jewellery to show off. Every piece I have has a story behind it. Jay Z opened for The Fugees at our first ever concert and asked me for the time, and when I said I didn't have a watch, he was like, 'Hey man, go buy yourself a watch, you deserve it.'"

Material trappings don't mean much to the man responsible for the groundbreaking fusion of reggae and hip-hop. As well as rapping and singing, he produces, DJs, hosts awards ceremonies, acts in TV commercials and writes film scores - he wrote the theme for Hotel Rwanda in three days. After the success of the Fugees, who split eight years ago, he's become one of the industry's most sought-after figures.

He's released four solo albums, sings in English, Creole, French and Spanish and has collaborated with stars and musicians such as Tom Jones, Destiny's Child, The Prodigy, Simply Red, Whitney Houston, Sinead O'Connor, Mick Jagger, The Black Eyed Peas - and the New York Philharmonic.

Yet in the past year Jean's priority has been the position of young people in his native Haiti. He seems to have appointed himself his country's unofficial ambassador. Through his Yéle Haiti Foundation, the 34-year-old has given funds to build or repair 33 schools and has set up hundreds of scholarships.

"I've made so much money, it's time to put something back. With all the violence in Haiti, it's difficult for young people to get even basic schooling. The education system will not improve until the country is more stable. Haitians are due to go to the polls later this year, but I believe the country is still too divided to hold an election.

"It's tragic to think that the country where I was born, the country that nurtured my talent, is too dangerous for me to perform there. But I know that one day I will play to an audience of Haitians."

It'll be next year before fans will be able to get hold of his new album, *Mardi Gras*. He promises he'll continue bending and breaking nearly every hip-hop boundary there is. "I've always enjoyed experimenting and including different types of music on my albums. This one is no different, but you'll have to wait until it's released to find out who guest-stars on it."

Jean won't respond to speculation that Lauryn Hill, his Fugees sparring partner, is one of those guests, but he admits that they are in touch again. "I've always regretted The Fugees breaking up," is all he will say. When I ask if the Fugees will get back together, he smiles and asks how much an album costs to buy in the UK. "Well, start saving. You may need that money for the new album sooner than you think."

It's almost 6am, and the buzz from the concert is beginning to wear off. If he's invited, will he play at the 10th anniversary St Kitts festival next year? "I would love to come back here. I am a child of the Caribbean, and being here is like being back home."

Until now this tiny music festival that attracts giants of the industry has been patronised only by those who know. Sorry, St Kitts: your secret is out, and it looks like Wyclef Jean, for one, will be seeing you next year.

Ronke Phillips is a reporter on ITV's 'London Tonight'

Update from Sister Judy: Haitian hospital plagued with physician shortage
By JUDY DOHNER, Special to the Eagle
Naples Daily News
Marco Island Eagle, FL
July 20, 2005

Greetings to all ... and thanks for all the prayers as Hurricane Dennis swiped at Haiti.

We had lot of rain and wind ... and damage with deaths in the south, but overall, we were blessed. I think it might be time to update all of you "from where I stand, this is what I see."

This past month, as the violence increases in Haiti, I am becoming more aware of the ripple effect of such violence ... things that you may never hear about ... for example, Dr. Desert is a pediatrician who worked for many years in the slum clinics with Father Rick's mobile unit. He and his family left Haiti because of all the unrest and instability for his five children.

Now, because he is older and was educated in Haiti, he cannot continue to practice medicine in the United States. He is no longer "doctor," but "Mr."

Through friends of our organization, he has been offered a job as an emergency room technician in a hospital in Idaho ... imagine how his life and the lives of his family have changed.

Two of our young female pediatricians have left Haiti for the U.S. in the past two weeks. The ripple effect on the hospital is that now we do not have enough physicians and may have to decrease the number of children seen in our outpatient clinic. One of the physicians was responsible for our budding Cncer program, which is now on "hold."

Who suffers? the hospital and the children we cannot serve.

Why did they leave? One doctor's husband was kidnapped a month ago and was released after a large ransom was paid. They have two young children. The other physician had two family members kidnapped. They were tortured while the family was on the phone talking to the kidnappers so the family could hear their screams. She is just too afraid to stay.

Two more of our physicians have sent their children to stay with relatives in the States because children in Haiti are now the focus of the kidnappings. The families are broken up and children are being raised by relatives. They don't know when the children will be able to return.

At our hospital, poor children come to us very sick, often with malnutrition and diarrhea. After a day or two, the parents abandon them to our care. They see that the child receives food, care, a safe place to stay ... all more than they can offer. So, we cannot admit more acutely ill children because our beds are full of abandoned children. Families are desperate!

Most foreign embassies have encouraged foreigners to leave Haiti because of the instability and danger. The Peace Corps has pulled out and all but essential services at the U.S. Embassy are closed. The great witness we who stay offer the people of Haiti is to say by our lives that we will not abandon them, and we will be there standing side by side with the suffering people. In spite of all the horror, great things are happening: Our new hospital should be open in early 2006. One of the buildings was paid for by Catholic Health Partners (HM Sisters).

Medical donations are being received at Villa Maria for Haiti from two health care agencies connected to Haiti by an HM associate. More donations are coming from Naples Community Hospital in Florida (connected by a friend). The Sunrise Rotary Club of Marco Island is purchasing oxygen concentrators that make oxygen from air. We hope to purchase toddler tables, a gas dryer for the laundry, wall toys for stimulation and supplies needed for our WHO-based malnutrition program. Hope comes in many forms, especially through the prayers and support of friends and family.

Merci ampil!

Sister Judy

Sister Judy Dohner is hospital administrator of St. Damien Hospital in Petionville, Haiti.

5,000 take streets as Haitian people resist UN occupation

By G. Dunkel

Workers World

Published Jul 19, 2005 11:05 PM

The word that best fits the mass resistance in Haiti to the UN/U.S. occupation of that country is heroic.

New York, July 16.

One resident of Cité Soleil explained the reasons for the UN massacre to the newspaper *Haïti-Progress*. "The foreigner assaulted the Cité to kill Aristide supporters. They can't kill us all. Even if they managed to, our children would take over the resistance. They killed Dread Wilme but we are still here to continue his struggle."

Haitians rally July 16 in New York
against massacre.

According to estimates from a Labor/Human Rights Delegation that was in Port-au-Prince when this UN massacre took place, at least 23 people were killed. George Honorat, a journalist with *Haïti-Progress* in Port-au-Prince, says the UN killed 80 to 100 people.

Seth Donnelly of the Labor/Human Rights Delegation was present at Wilme's funeral. Donnelly said, "Speakers expressed respect for Wilme as someone who embodied the hopes of the community, someone who attempted to stand up for and protect his community. They vowed to continue the struggle for the rights of the poor in Haiti to health care, education and democracy. In this spirit, they also vowed to fight for the return of President Aristide."

He continued, "One young female speaker stirred the crowd with her words affirming the dignity of the people of Cité Soleil and their right to be treated as human beings."

Twice rumors spread through the crowd at the funeral that UN tanks were coming back with their heavy machine guns. People fled, even though young men with rifles were present to provide security.

Lavalas supporters called a demonstration July 14 in Cité Soleil to protest this massacre. Around one or two in the morning UN forces, known by the acronym MINUSTAH, attacked again, killing three children in their homes. They also blew off the steel door of a local church. According to Honorat, they "certainly attacked the people to intimidate them in order [to get them] not to participate in the demonstrations."

Honorat continued, "But the people threw bottles and rocks at the MINUSTAH so they had to drive back and the people cut the roads so the tanks could not enter Cité Soleil." Later 5,000 people came out and a peaceful rally was held from 10:30 to 12:30 at night.

Subhead: Protest at UN headquarters

Another protest was held July 16 in front of the United Nations building in New York. There were chants, speeches, some music and signs, some graphically showing the deaths and disfigurement produced by UN troops. Protesters demanded that MINUSTAH be withdrawn and that the United States and France stop propping up the coup in Haiti and allow Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the democratically elected president, to return.

A Brazilian general heads the military part of MINUSTAH and Brazil has the largest contingent of troops. Representatives of Japan, Germany and India, as well as Brazil, are maneuvering to gain a permanent seat on the UN Security Council.

Some Brazilian trade unions have called for demonstrations July 21 to protest Brazilian participation in the occupation of Haiti. Support demonstrations in front of Brazilian consulates are planned in San Francisco, Montreal, New York and Miami. These protests will point out that these massacres of Haitian people are "made in the USA" and the UN forces are a proxy force doing the dirty work for the U.S. government and their partners in crime.

Some right-wing commentators in the United States have belittled the demonstrations, saying that "only" thousands of Haitians have gone into the streets to demand Aristide's return. Of course, they don't point out that anyone who demonstrates for Aristide or against the current, de facto government in Haiti risks their life. Haitian cops break up demonstrations by killing participants.

But the de facto government has called for elections in October and November and now has been registering voters. Less than 5 percent of the eligible voters have signed up and it is expected that, at most, another 5 percent will sign up before registration closes in September.

The Haitian people are boycotting this election as a sham, a "selection" that can only pretend to be democratic.

The slogan Haitians adopted in their revolution against the French slaveowners two centuries ago was "Liberty or death." The protesting masses in Haiti have again put that slogan into practice and are putting tremendous pressure on their bourgeoisie and the UN/U.S. occupation of their country.

Haiti Progress: This Week in Haiti, July 6, 2005

As U.S. Envoy Charges “Terrorism”: Lavalas Renegades Prepare to Enter Occupation Elections

This past week, the Washington Post reported that United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan asked the Bush administration to send troops to Haiti to “reinforce” the 6500-member U.N. Mission to Stabilize Haiti (MINUSTAH).

Annan made the request for American “boots on the ground” to U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice at U.N. headquarters in Manhattan on Jun. 28, the Post reported.

Many in the Haitian bourgeoisie have accused the U.N. troops - led and dominated by Brazilian, Argentinian, and Chilean contingents - of being ineffective and not repressive enough against rebellious slums in the capital like Belair and Cité Soleil, where resistance to last year’s coup d’état against President Jean-Bertrand Aristide runs deep.

“We want scarier troops,” one senior U.N. official told the Post.

But Rice had said prior to the meeting with Annan that it would be a “mistake” for the U.S. to buttress its U.N. proxies occupying Haiti, although she offered to encourage Canada and France to do so. Washington is reluctant to commit troops to Haiti because the Pentagon is already facing severe troop shortages for its campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Nonetheless, the Post reported that “U.S. and U.N. officials have begun a series of preliminary discussions about a possible U.S. military role in Haiti, including the provision of logistical and intelligence support to the planned U.N. rapid reaction force, according to senior U.N. diplomats.”

Despite being coy about a U.S. troop deployment, Washington has stepped up its rhetoric against Aristide, whom U.S. Special Forces kidnapped from his home and sent into exile on Feb. 29, 2004. In a Jun. 24 article in the Miami Herald, Roger Noriega, a former aid to arch-conservative senator Jesse Helms and now U.S. assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere Affairs, blamed Aristide for “personally stirring the violence” in Haiti.

“We believe that his people are receiving instructions directly from his voice and indirectly through his acolytes that communicate with him personally in South Africa,” Noriega told the Herald. “Aristide and his camp are singularly responsible for most of the violence and for the concerted nature of the violence.”

Noriega also asked the U.N. occupying force to take a more “proactive role” in repressing anti-coup resistance. He asserted that it was “extraordinarily apparent that Aristide and his gangs are playing a central role in generating violence, and trying to sow insecurity.”

He claimed that Aristide had a 15-year “pattern” of using political violence and that this was just “one last stand to terrorize the Haitian people and deny them good government.”

U.S. Ambassador to Haiti James Foley reiterated these themes in his traditional July 4 speech in Haiti. He said that the wave of kidnappings, arson, and other crimes gripping Haiti was the work of “terrorists” who had a “silent political partner participating in an even more illegitimate political project, but basically we know what, and who, it involves.” This was a thinly-veiled allusion to Aristide and his Lavalas Family party (FL).

Foley’s remarks caused certain FL opportunists who have been wheeling and dealing with the putschist government of Prime Minister Gérard Latortue to jump. Former FL Sen. Yvon Feuillé felt compelled to declare that the Lavalas Family is “a political party which does not recognize anybody who uses violence to attain their goal, no matter what sector they belong to.” He called on Haitians to “cohabit and reconcile ourselves so that we can lay the conditions to have elections in the country.” Noting that in the past two months eligible voters have shunned getting electoral cards (less than 4% of eligible voters have registered), he then called on Lavalas members to procure their electoral cards “between the Jul. 15 and Aug. 30” so as to “show the whole world that you have electoral cards.”

Mario Dupuy of the FL’s Communications Commission, the party’s leading council, denounced the call, saying that “Yvon Feuillé has confirmed once again, although I had no doubt about it, that he is an integral part of the of the Feb. 29 coup d’état and that he carries responsibility for the population’s blood that is spilled each day.” Dupuy said that “Feuillé and company” - a reference to confederates like former legislators Gérard Gilles and Rudy Hériveaux - were “magouilleurs” (opportunists) and that “the population already knows that it is the majority; it has demonstrated that by staying home and not participating in the masquerade of accepting the false and poisonous electoral card.”

In recent weeks, the National Popular Party (PPN) and several FL-affiliated popular organizations have been circulating a flyer urging Haitians to shun the “electoral card trap” so as “not to play into the hands of the Feb. 29 kidnappers” (see *Haiti Progrès*, Vol. 23, No. 13, 6/8/2005).

Have the Latortues Kidnapped Democracy in Haiti?

by Anthony Fenton

(Second of three installments)

On Jun. 9, Radio Vision 2000, which is jointly owned by Boulos and Andy Apaid, leader of the anti-Aristide and U.S. backed Group of 184 coalition, blamed “unabated” kidnappings on “bandits.”

“It really seems as if armed bandits will not give Port-au-Prince residents a moment’s respite,” the radio opined, “because not a day has gone by without a kidnapping being committed in the capital.”

In a later interview with Haiti’s Radio Métropole, Apaid would characterize the violence and kidnappings as “part of a Lavalas plot to regain control.” Apaid refers to the kidnappings as being carried out in a series of “well coordinated waves.”

“I have no doubt that some sectors are doing this for commercial reasons or things like that,” he said. “But most of the violence that we are undergoing today comes from these people that were armed by

the former dictator [Jean-Bertrand Aristide]... It is clear that it is the armed branch of the Lavalas party, the armed sectors of the Lavalas party that are sponsoring the violence for the most part. They are the ones that are sponsoring the kidnapping... The kidnapping is mainly a political instrument aimed at reinforcing this terror and bringing despair and discouragement in order to give better political options. Because there is a plan behind all this... The plan is to entertain such violence that should unseat and put everybody in a state of helplessness and discouragement.”

As the ‘kidnapping scourge’ reached a crescendo, the high-level delegation led by [U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Roger] Noriega along with Canada’s special envoy to Haiti, Denis Coderre, and France’s Daniel Parfait. This visit, premised on a show of “solidarity” with Gérard Latortue by the primary “donor” countries, saw an increase in speculation about U.S. troops being sent in. On the show of support for Latortue, Coderre said: “We are here together to send a strong message: We want the elections to take place in time.”

On Jun. 10, the Miami Herald summarized Noriega’s trip: “Noriega calls for the UN to be more 'proactive' in squelching 'a coordinated campaign of criminality' that is undermining efforts to restore peace to this troubled Caribbean nation.” In an Orwellian moment, Noriega said: “The rights of the vast majority of the Haitian people are being violated by the ones who spread violence . . . It's a deadly destabilization plan...”

Showing how Noriega’s sentiments cater to the business elite, the Herald concluded, “Noriega's comments echoed the sentiments of many Haitians who see the peacekeepers as too passive in the face of an onslaught of kidnappings, carjackings and shootouts.”

On Jun. 14, Haitian National Police [HNP] spokesperson Jessie Coicou announced the creation of a “special intervention unit... to combat kidnappings for ransom.” Coicou attended the Montreal International Conference on Haiti two days later and would subsequently get promoted to inspector-general of the HNP on Jun. 22. Coicou also announced the arrests of several individuals in relation to kidnappings, including at least one Haitian police officer and someone supposed to be affiliated with Aristide, who was allegedly “caught while distributing money in Bel-Air to maintain the climate of violence.” After weeks of presuming the guilt of Aristide supporters, the government had finally taken what seemed to be a concrete measure to substantiate any of the claims.

Coicou’s announcements were well-timed to coincide with the conference in Montreal, where security in advance of the October elections was a central topic of discussion. Two days before the conference, the AP speculated that kidnappings and other violence could “undermine” the election process.

During a Jun. 12 interview with virulently anti-Aristide reporter Nancy Roc, Denis Coderre feigned sympathy for the kidnap victims: “I would like to offer my condolences to all the victims of kidnapping,” Coderre intoned. Roc herself fled the country just days later in the face of alleged kidnapping threats against her. The NED-funded pseudo-human rights organization Reporters Without Borders [RSF] would quickly come to her defense, and took a swipe at the exiled Aristide in the process, writing that Roc “blamed the threats on drug-traffickers, linked, she believes, to the Fanmi Lavalas, militias that support ex-president Jean-Bertrand Aristide.”

Interestingly, RSF notes how Roc's employer at Radio Métropole, Richard Widmaier, escaped a kidnapping attempt on Jun. 11. RSF neglected to mention Widmaier's opinion on the kidnappings, captured in the Miami Herald on Jun. 23: "We have a situation here that is more similar to what you see happening in Afghanistan and Iraq. It's terrorism... You have guys who pretend to be supporters of former President Aristide, attacking people in the streets, burning cars and kidnapping people."

An unidentified speaker on a Jun. 15 Haitian Signal Radio broadcast referred to "a very organized sector" that is executing the kidnappings. This was echoed in a Jun. 20 Agence Haitienne Presse (AHP) article, citing a radio director from Quebec, that "the kidnapers are well-organized gangs, formed, among other things, by Haitians who lived in Quebec and in the United States and who were expelled because of their criminal activities. White people living in Haiti could also be part of these criminal gangs." Signal Radio also warned of an "exodus" of Haitians fleeing the kidnappings and other insecurity.

On the official policy side, where examples of the kidnappings being used as a pretext to increase repression are slightly more transparent, we can turn to Canadian Foreign Minister Pierre Pettigrew, who addressed the topic of kidnappings, to fellow "trustees," in Montreal on Jun. 16. "The recent wave of abductions in Port-au-Prince is especially troubling," he said. "This climate of violence must change in anticipation of the fall elections...Port-au-Prince, where most of the violence has occurred, must be secured. We must study with utmost care the possibility of augmenting military and police contingents...Maintaining security, in addition to having benefits for Haiti's people, is necessary for the holding of free, transparent and democratic elections this fall."

In a special parliamentary hearing on Haiti on Jun. 14, Pettigrew and Coderre were called upon to discuss human rights in Haiti with other parliamentarians. Coderre must have picked up some counterinsurgency lingo from his friend Noriega, which he deployed in the meeting, volunteering the profound analysis that there is an "urban strategy to try to destabilize the situation."

Deflecting questions raised by NDP foreign affairs critic Alexa McDonough, Pettigrew referred to the kidnappings to illustrate his point about the danger of looking at things in a one-sided way: "When we had the kidnapping of the Canadian women, the Montreal women, two days ago, I had been the first to say that there were security concerns, so I'm not saying that raising them.... I'm talking about absolutism. I'm talking about taking only that part of the picture and focusing on it plays into the extreme elements of [Lavalas] which don't want the rest of the picture... Certainly I think it's our duty as members of Parliament, and for us as the government, to make Canadians well aware of the situation, so that they don't set their foot into a reality that they're not aware of."

Rather than raise a question that drew from the independent and meticulously documented human rights report by Thomas Griffin of the University of Miami, which the Canadian government and Pettigrew specifically have dismissed without counter argument, slurring it as "propaganda," McDonough based her question on the most recent International Crisis Group report (ICG), released on Jun. 1. Partially funded by the Canadian government, the ICG report has, in theory, a far greater influence on policy than the numerous independent reports on Haiti. Interestingly, the ICG report is much clearer than Pettigrew or Coderre on the possibilities of transitional government and international complicity in the crime wave, kidnappings, and drug trafficking.

Where the ICG does mention “factions sympathetic to Aristide” as among the “powerful spoilers” who have “much to gain” from insecurity and violence, they also refer to “elements of the business elite, drug traffickers, or other criminal organizations” as having “an interest in delaying elections.”

“Powerful people” have an “overarching long-term objective,” which is to “prevent the creation and development of solid and effective state institutions which would reduce or halt their current activities.”

“Groups linked to criminal activities, particularly drug-trafficking and contraband (in Haiti and abroad) are behind much of the current wave of violence.”

Noting that “the HNP and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) have arrested many individuals linked to Fanmi Lavalas,” the ICG emphasizes that “only suspects believed to be close to Lavalas have been detained in combined HNP/DEA operations.” They continue:

“The perceived inaction of international law enforcement agencies with regard to the transitional government has led many in Haiti to believe that their actions are driven in part by political or strategic reasons. The roles of U.S. agencies such as the DEA and CIA, therefore, continue to be controversial.”

Faced with McDonough’s question, Pettigrew deferred to Coderre. Before addressing the ICG report, Coderre, knowing that human rights activists had met recently with Alexa McDonough, was quick to define his position on independent reports, characterizing them as “propaganda reports,” which he also claimed are lying. Coderre presented no evidence and refused to address any of the facts, interviews, photographs, or other damning context, in these so-called “propaganda reports.”

He called the University of Miami report, which he and dozens of members of Parliament have been presented, “disgusting.” He cited allegations of Canadian police misconduct as “baloney.” Turning to the ICG report, Coderre changed his tune: “a lot of the report is good,” he said, and “we should provide some credibility” to it. Coderre seems to believe that “credibility” can come only from the Canadian government or, presumably, Washington, and not from the evidence itself, which he ignores.

While it is unlikely that Coderre himself understands this, aspects of the ICG report are, indeed, credible. Youri Latortue's career confirms a number of the report’s assertions about the Haitian government's involvement in kidnapping and insecurity. There is, however, much missing from the ICG report: Specifically, the extent to which the US/Canada/French-backed regime is involved in kidnapping, drug smuggling, massacre, and arms trafficking. All this, too, is illustrated by focusing on Youri Latortue.

To be continued

Journalist to Present Rare Footage of Recent Events in Haiti and 2004 Coup d'etat, Describe Current Political, Human Rights Situation in Haiti

7/20/2005 12:54:00 PM

US Newswire

Journalist to Present Rare Footage of Recent Events in Haiti and the 2004 Coup d'Etat
To: Assignment Desk and Daybook Editor

Contact: Dan Beeton, 202-256-6116 or Kevin Pina, 510-472-1622

News Advisory:

What: Screening of excerpts of film, "Haiti: The Betrayal of Democracy" and discussion

When: Monday, July 25, 2005, 7 p.m.

Where: Plymouth Congregational UCC, 5301 North Capitol Street at Missouri/Riggs, NW, Washington, D.C.

Who: Kevin Pina, journalist and documentary filmmaker based in Haiti since 1999

Journalist and documentary filmmaker Kevin Pina will present rare footage of recent developments in Haiti, including images of the deaths resulting from the UN operation in Cite Soleil on July 6, 2005. Pina will also show footage from Haiti's 2004 coup d'etat against the democratically elected government of Jean Bertrand Aristide. Freshly returned from Haiti to continue editing his next project, Pina will describe the current reality in Haiti today and screen new unique material that Pina, as one of the only independent foreign journalists on the ground, took during the coup and subsequent events.

"The current situation in Haiti should not come as a surprise to anyone. It is clear it represents a policy failure on the part of the Bush administration and the international community. The shameful history speaks for itself," said Kevin Pina.

Kevin Pina is a documentary filmmaker and freelance journalist living in Haiti since 1999. He is also the Haiti correspondent for FLASHPOINTS on KPFA and Pacifica and serves as editor for the Haiti Information Project (HIP) featured at <http://www.haitiaction.net>. Pina is also an Associate Editor for the Black Commentator online magazine.

Pina is available for interviews. Please contact him directly at 510-472-1622.

<http://www.usnewswire.com/>

John W. Graham Is Wrong About Haiti
Embassy Magazine
Embassy, July 20th, 2005
LETTERS

Re: "Canada, Latin America And The Caribbean: What Sort Of Amigo Are We?" (Embassy June 15, 2005) Your article has an error in it. The article states that since the 1991 Haitian coup there has not been a successful military coup. In fact, there was another successful military coup in Haiti on February 29, 2004. Jean-Bertrand Aristide, along with all members of government down to the municipal level, were removed from power by an armed rebellion led by the same ex-military members of the 1991 coup. Both the U.S. and Canada had military present at the airport the day of the coup when Aristide was flown out of the country. The circumstances of the 2004 coup are still under investigation by a number of countries and organizations, and Canada's role is not entirely innocent. Denis Paradis hosted the Ottawa Initiative in 2000 which foreign ministers and delegates from the U.S., France and Canada attended to discuss the situation in Haiti. Denis Paradis told the CBC's Actualité a couple months later that among the topics discussed were the removal of Aristide and a possible occupation force being sent to Haiti.

Alex Goss
Halifax, NS