

**UN admits Haiti needs more work****BBC News****April 16, 2005**

The UN delegation was heavily protected during its stay in Haiti. A United Nations delegation has ended a four-day visit to Haiti with an admission that little progress has been made towards restoring peace. Armed gangs clashed with UN troops, killing one Filipino peacekeeper, as delegates toured the island this week.

Haiti is scheduled to hold democratic elections in November, but the UN said doubts remained over poll security.

A UN force was deployed to Haiti when former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was ousted in a rebellion last year.

Between five and 10 armed civilians died on Friday in the hour-long gun battle with UN troops and Haitian security forces, a UN military spokesman said in Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince.

More effort needed

Brazil's UN ambassador Ronaldo Sardenberg, leader of the delegation, hinted that the UN mandate in Haiti, which expires in May, was likely to be renewed.

Among extra measures to be discussed by the UN Security Council would be extra police and the stationing of international human rights observers in the country, Mr Sardenberg said.

There are currently about 1,400 international police officers in Haiti as well as 6,200 UN soldiers.

Haiti's interim leaders have pledged to make sure that elections do take place later this year.

But some of the UN delegates admitted that extra effort was needed.

"On the electoral process, it is essential that preparatory work is accelerated and that the election takes place as scheduled," said French Ambassador Jean-Marc de la Sabliere.

"We think it is possible. Our message is elections can take place on time, and when we go back to New York we will see what we can do to help," Mr de la Sabliere told the Reuters news agency.

Opposition politician Gerard Blot was less optimistic.

"One year after the UN arrived, security has degraded, the socio-economic condition has degraded, confidence in the government has eroded," he told the Associated Press.