

He hopes the Latortue government will at least have the courage to be honest.

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American ambassador in Haiti positive about Haiti's future

Port-au-Prince, March 18, 2004 -(AHP)- American ambassador in Haiti, James Foley, felt Wednesday that the new government promised great hope for Haiti's future.

James Foley renewed his government's full support to the development process in Haiti and he feels Haitians can now get to another level.

He announced that UN forces would go to Haiti in the coming months to help the country in environment, agriculture, jobs and urban planning.

He invited Haitian politicians to get ready to start preparing the next elections.

The American diplomat also felt President Jean Bertrand Aristide's presence in Jamaica was not a threat to Haiti.

Mr. Foley feels Haitians should now look towards the future, for they have a new government striving to improve the citizens' living conditions.

The French government also cheered Wednesday the creation of a new Haitian government.

French minister of Foreign Affairs, Dominique de Villepin, promised his government would fully support Haiti and ensure the mobilization of all lenders.

He also called for international mobilization to support the political process for security, justice and development in Haiti.

However, the head of French diplomacy encouraged Haitian politicians to reach an agreement on an electoral calendar which takes into account the current situation and the necessity of a true reconciliation.

Most schools and universities have remained closed this Thursday at Port-au-Prince and the rest of the country, 19 days after Aristide left in strange circumstances.

In most regions of the country, the armed gangs who took control of many police stations are still the ones assuming what they call 'security' for the population.

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Hérard Abraham announces a commission will soon be formed to look into the case of

Haiti's Army

Port-au-Prince, March 18, 2004 -(AHP)- Retired Lieutenant General Hérard Abraham, currently minister of the Interior, said Thursday he was willing to collaborate with all sectors of the country to re-establish a climate of security in Haiti.

According to Hérard Abraham, peace is essential to allow all Haitians and foreign nationals to lead normal lives.

He also announced a commission would soon be put in place to look into the case of restoring the army.

According to Mr. Abraham, this commission will also look at cases of demobilized military men and women.

However, Prime Minister Gérard Latortue stressed that the transitional government did not have the capacity to rule for or against the reconstitution of the army. The government that will win the next elections will hold that responsibility.

The former Haitian army, dissolved in 1995 by President Aristide, has been accused of being involved in numerous slaughters and violations of the rights of the Haitian people, especially during the 1991 coup d'état which killed between 3.000 and 5.000 people.

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