

said.

The minister of Justice, who is counting on the national police's collaboration, said justice has to be available for all, without distinction.

The new minister of Finance, Henry Bazin, said he was determined to make things move in the right direction. He promised to manage with rigour the State's finances, as they face enormous challenges. He said he will face the country's tough reality with serenity and realism.

On his part, the minister of planning and external cooperation, Roland Pierre, promised to work towards quickly restoring cooperation with international lenders so the country can start moving forward again.

"There is a lot of work to do", Mr. Pierre said, as he hopes the whole government team feels the importance of its responsibilities.

**AHP 18 March 2004 2:05 PM**

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**Senate President denies Fanmi lavalas involvement in the Latortue government and criticizes officials from the former opposition**

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**Port-au-Prince, March 18, 2004 -(AHP)-** The Republic's Senate President, Yvon Feuillé, denied Thursday any Fanmi Lavalas involvement in the Boniface/Latortue government, as suggested by some statements from leaders of the former opposition.

Yvon Feuillé, a member of Fanmi Lavalas coordination, said no member of this government is a part of his political organization.

Mr. Feuillé said that the delegation which met with Prime Minister Gérard Latortue told him it would be very difficult for Fanmi Lavalas to send representatives in his government, since supporters of the former opposition are persecuting the party's activists and leaders everywhere.

Senator Yvon Feuillé also criticized the leaders of the convergence who claim they were left out of the new government.

The vast majority of ministers from this government are either members of the opposition or have close ties to it, Mr. Feuillé stated.

The political platform of the opposition thinks it can fool the population. It is greatly represented in the government, but refuses to acknowledge it in order to avoid taking the blame for the failure looming, Senator Feuillé said.

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

**AHP 18 March 2004 3:30 PM**

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**American ambassador in Haiti positive about Haiti's future**

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**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.

**AHP 18 March 2004 1:50 PM**

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