

AHP News- April 6, 2004 - English translation (Unofficial)

The interim government, the "council of the wise" and representatives from various elements of the ex-Platform of the opposition sign an agreement on the transition process

Port-au-Prince, April 6, 2004 -(AHP)- The Alexandre/Latortue government and several political sectors of the government connected to the ex-Platform of the opposition and to a portion of the so-called non-aligned parties signed a political agreement this Tuesday at the national palace relating to the process of transition.

In this document entitled "consensus on political transition", the interim government declared its commitment to fighting insecurity by disarming the illegal armed groups and to improving the system of organization of the Haitian National Police.

The authorities also committed themselves to begin discussions with the united States on the status of the multinational force in Haiti and the peacekeeping mission that is to succeed this force.

The government affirmed its determination to combat impunity by opening serious investigations into cases of killings, theft and rape committed against the population.

The authorities also promised to work to integrate the rebels into national life and to create conditions favorable to reflecting in a substantive way on the holding of a national conference and on a new social contract.

The contents of this document, supported and signed by sectors of what was formerly the opposition to President Aristide, provides for the establishment of a foreign service described as oriented toward economic and social progress for the Haitian people.

The document states that an adequate economic and social policy should be adopted by the new government in order to relieve the misery of the Haitian people.

This document also provides for in-depth reforms of the civil service in order to provide a foundation for the government that will emerge from the elections scheduled for 2005.

The government says it has also taken on the mission of accompanying young people and the victims of the (alleged financial mismanagement) of the cooperatives in their quest for justice and reparations.

The document includes a number of other points such as the formation of the next Provisional Electoral council, consistent with OAS Resolution 822.

According to the document, elections will be held for every elected office, from the CASECs to the presidency.

As stated in the document, the powers of the "council of the wise" will be to observe the action of the government and to ask members of the government to provide information. It is to be consulted on all important questions, particularly the draft budget, agreements and decrees.

Several political parties including Fanmi Lavalas were not asked to participate in the consultations that led to

the signing of the agreement presented this Tuesday at the National Palace.

One of the spokespersons of Fanmi Lavalas, Gilvert Angervil, confirmed Tuesday that Fanmi Lavalas was kept at a distance.

This is the case despite the fact that it had designated one of the three members of the "tripartite committee" that had initially appointed the representatives to sit on the "council of the wise".

Officially, it is the "council of the wise" that chose the interim prime minister, Gérard Latortue.

AHP April 6, 2004 1:10 PM

Gérard Latortue promises that his government will scrupulously respect the language of the agreement reached with certain political sectors

Port-au-Prince, April 6, 2004 -(AHP)- Interim Prime Minister Gérard Latortue declared Tuesday that the document relating to the transition process signed by his government and by various political sectors, traces the path to be followed to save the country.

Mr. Latortue guaranteed that his government will scrupulously respect all the clauses inserted into this document and called on the other parties to do the same.

"My government will always be based on competence and honesty and will combat corruption and violence with all its might", he said.

The head of the interim government also reminded the members of the current government and other senior officials of the State that they can not under any circumstances take part in the next elections scheduled for the year 2005, which, he said, will be free, honest and democratic.

The current government, he said, will be watching over only the technical quality of the next elections.

"The losers in these elections will have to accept their defeat", Gérard Latortue stressed.

The interim prime minister took this opportunity to praise the courage of the members of the "council of the wise" who, he said, sacrificed themselves to contribute important work, particularly the work toward the creation of this document.

AHP April 6, 2004 1:45 PM

The Convergence and the Group of 184 express satisfaction at the signature of of the document on the "consensus for political transition": Fanmi Lavalas and some of the "non-aligned" parties are absent

Port-au-Prince, April 6, 2004 -(AHP)- The Democratic Convergence and the Group of 184 hailed the signing of the document called "consensus for political transition".

The leader of the KID party, Evans Paul, speaking on behalf of the Democratic Convergence, said that the

transition should succeed because it will be for the benefit on Haitian society in general.

Mr. Paul advocated for the establishment of new democratic structures with the participation of all these entities.

He said he regrets that the Fanmi Lavalas political organization was not represented in this large meeting in the context of the signing of this important document.

The KID leader said he is opposed to all types of divisions in the country and asked all sectors to work for an improvement in the living conditions for all Haitians.

For their part, the leaders of the Group of 184, including André Apaid and Anthony Barbier, welcomed the new attributions of the "council of the wise", which will serve, he said, as an authority to provide oversight.

Calling on the Senators who remain in office to hand in their resignations, André Apaid and Anthony Barbier asked the Alexandre administration to freeze the financial account of the Senate of the Republic.

A spokesperson for Fanmi Lavalas, Gilvert Agervil, said he is surprised to learn that an agreement has been reached between the Latortue government and the political parties.

Gilvert Angervil said that Fanmi Lavalas was not contacted with respect to the discussions that resulted in this document.

Mr. Angervil denounced the exclusionary nature of this agreement.

A fraction within the non-aligned parties denounced the agreement concluded between the Latortue government and and the "Democratic Platform".

The coordinator of the coalition, Mr. Osner Févry, said that this political grouping was not invited to take part in the discussions that resulted in the April 4th document.

According to him, this is not a political agreement but rather a settlement between friends and members of a single family which does not, he said, commit the non-aligned parties.

Osner Févry considered that the April 4th agreement only applies to the current government, the Group of 184 and the Democratic Convergence.

He indicated that the coalition of the non-aligned parties is ready to become part of the opposition if the government team persists in its policy of exclusion.

For his part, PNDPH Secretary General Turneb Delpé said that he withdrew a long time ago from discussions that led to the April 6th agreement.

The tendency was to produce a document at any cost before the arrival of Secretary of State Colin Powell in Port-au-Prince on April 5th.

He emphasized however that he is not part of the opposition to the Alexandre/Latortue government.

AHP April 6, 2004 2:20 PM

Arrest of the Interior Minister of the Aristide government

Port-au-Prince, April 6, 2004.-(AHP)- The Minister of the Interior of the Aristide government, Jocelerme

Privert, was arrested during the night on Monday in Port-au-Prince.

He is presently incarcerated at the National Penitentiary.

Latortue government Minister of Justice Bernard Gousse, said that Mr. Privert is accused of involvement in the lethal incidents that took place in Syrie after the Saint-Marc police headquarters was captured by rebels.

An arrest warrant was issued against Jocelerme Privert, he said, by the investigating judge of Saint-Marc.

The minister promised that his government will bring about respect for the law.

He said that every person who is in contravention of the law will be prosecuted regardless of political affiliation, and denied that supporters of Fanmi Lavalas are the object of political persecution.

Accused of practicing a selective policy, Bernard Gousse retorted that if that were the case you would see mass arrests and mass dismissals.

"Such is not the case", he said.

However Bernard Gousse did not wish to comment on the cases of two convicted individuals who are presently walking the streets, Louis Jodel Chamblain et Jean Tatoune.

Mr. Gousse had recently raised the possibility of a second trial for Mr. Chamblain, who was convicted in absentia for abuses committed during the time of the coup d'etat of 1991, and had also suggested that the convict Jean Tatoune might possibly be pardoned for his participation in the Raboteau massacre in April 1994.

For his part, one of the leaders of the platform of the ex-opposition, André Apaid, Junior, welcomed the arrest of Mr. Privert.

He said that the former minister of the interior has be held accountable for a whole series of incidents that took place recently in Haiti, including cases in Cité Soleil and the events in Saint-Marc.

However he said he "did not wish to give the impression that he was participating in a witch-hunt".

The leader of the Group of 184 had recently gotten into a dispute with Jocelerme Privert over the question of his nationality.

AHP April 6, 2004 1:05 PM

Reynold Georges describes the arrest of Jocelerme Privert as illegal and unconstitutional

Port-au-Prince, April 6, 2004 -(AHP)- Lawyer Reynold Georges has labeled the arrest of the former minister of the interior, Jocelerme Privert, "illegal and unconstitutional".

Reynold Georges said that Mr. Privert was arrested at his home Tuesday at 2 o'clock in the morning. This is contrary to the law, he said, which requires that all arrests be carried out between 6 AM and 6 PM.

He considers that this arrest is part of a witch-hunt.

"Certain judicial actions by the Latortue government are dictated by individuals who are pulling strings", said Reynold Georges.

AHP April 6, 2004 3:25 PM

George Honorat denounces a campaign of denigration of the PPN and acts of repression against elements of the disadvantaged populations

Port-au-Prince, April 6, 2004 -(AHP)- The PPN Party (National Populist Party), denounced Tuesday a campaign it claimed was designed to tarnish its image.

A PPN official, Georges Honorat, said that this campaign is fueled through the spreading of rumors against the party.

Mr. Honorat also denounced the acts of repression perpetrated, he said, against elements of the most disadvantaged sectors.

He accused members of the interim government of involvement in a scandal of overbilling of the fuel that was ordered for the Haitian electric company.

The PPN also accuses the Latortue government of collaborating with the occupation forces, in particular the French and the Americans, said Mr. Honorat.

AHP April 6, 2004 2:50 PM

