

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.

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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.