

HAITI NEWS ROUNDUP: APRIL 25 – MAY 7, 2006

Caribbean immigrants shun demonstrations

Different cultures, immigration paths are seen as factors.

By Alva James-Johnson

South Florida Sun-Sentinel

May 6 2006

Cora Gould knows what it's like to live underground.

When her visa expired in 1995, the Jamaican immigrant remained in South Florida secretly until she could gain legal status five years later.

Now, Gould sympathizes with the plight of undocumented immigrants. But she wasn't among the thousands who marched on South Florida's streets on their behalf.

"If I had the day off, I would go," she said recently while serving lunch at a Lauderhill bakery. "I came into the country that way."

English-speaking Caribbean immigrants like Gould have been conspicuously absent from recent South Florida immigration demonstrations largely attended by immigrants from Latin America and Haiti.

Caribbean experts say their absence points to differences in culture and immigration experiences.

Immigrants from the former British colonies are more likely to enter the United States legally and assimilate easily into the larger society because they speak English, say immigration and Caribbean experts. They are less inclined to become politically active or to publicly criticize their host country than their Haitian and Latin American counterparts.

"Generally speaking, there's a lack of unity and leadership in terms of going out and speaking out as a voice," said Junior Farquharson, a Jamaican-American immigration attorney in West Palm Beach. "For the most part, Caribbean people have taken a wait-and-see attitude."

Glen Joseph, a Trinidad-born political consultant, said many Caribbean immigrants are so busy chasing the American dream that they don't have time to demonstrate.

"They recognize the importance of the issue, and want to contribute where they can, but they're so focused on building their lives that they often tend to shed off the limelight and they would rather contribute from the back door," he said. "We've not had a history of militancy."

He said some community elders still live by the old adage "Don't sit on a river bank and talk the river bad," which means it is impolite to bad-mouth a country that has been good to you.

The younger generation tends to be more outspoken.

"We're not going to be so grateful that we're going to take anything that's thrown at us," said Joseph, who has been trying to mobilize the community for elections. "Yes, this country has been good to us. But it has a lot of problems that need attending to, and immigration is one of them."

South Florida is home to more than 500,000 English-speaking Caribbean immigrants, according to the 2000 U.S. Census. Experts say the numbers are even higher than reported.

Antonette Russell, a Jamaican-American immigration attorney in Hollywood and former supervising attorney for Broward Catholic Charities Legal Services, said many of her clients are from Latin American and Caribbean countries.

She said those from the Caribbean usually come into the country legally. If they're undocumented, it's because they overstayed their visas. They tend to have relatives and employers who can sponsor them, or they marry someone in the country and obtain legal status.

Russell said her Haitian, Colombian, Brazilian and Peruvian clients tend to come without papers. When they arrive at her office, they're seeking asylum because of political, religious or social persecution. And they're the ones marching in the streets.

Some community leaders said they are disappointed with the low turnout among English-speaking Caribbean immigrants.

"People before us have done things to make things easier for us. We didn't just land here without someone making a sacrifice," said former Miramar Commissioner George Pedlar, who showed up at a Broward rally expecting to see a large Jamaican contingent. "I'm afraid not all of us are as sensitive to these issues as we should be."

He said there's a sense of self-reliance among English-speaking Caribbean people that has hindered efforts to mobilize them politically.

"They don't think demonstrating is going to make a difference," Pedlar said. "They are not depending on politics, per se, to get them through. ... Caribbean people feel they have to work it out themselves."

Some say the predominantly black Caribbean community should support Haitians struggling to obtain legal status in the United States.

"A lot of us seem to think it has nothing to do with us," said "Doc" Henry, a 43-year-old Trinidadian who lives in Fort Lauderdale. "When we face a crisis and find ourselves alone, we wonder why nobody is helping us."

Alva James-Johnson can be reached at ajohnson@sun-sentinel.com or 954-572-2028.

2,500 peacekeepers in Haiti to be replaced

China View News

May 5, 2006

HAVANA, May 4 -- The United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti will begin to replace 2,500 soldiers from Saturday, said reports from Port-au-Prince on Thursday.

The replacement will start from Brazil's troops, followed by the forces of Jordan, Sri Lanka and Peru, chief communications officer David Wimhurst said.

Wimhurst also talked about the security plan for the inauguration of Haitian President-elect Rene Preval.

"We can confirm that the National Palace (the seat of the government), the parliament building and the cathedral will be sealed off for the ceremony with access only for accredited visitors," Wimhurst said.

The Haitian authorities will announce security measures for the inauguration ceremony next week.

Preval won the presidential race on Feb. 7, and will be sworn in on May 14. Haiti's 99 deputies and 30 senators will attend the ceremony at the parliament building. Enditem

Editor: Ling Zhu

Envoy Hopes For Economic Progress In Haiti
By Candia Dames
The Bahamas Journal
May 5, 2006

Hope for economic progress in Haiti is building as Haitian president-elect Rene Preval prepares to be sworn in on May 14.

Mr. Preval, who has vowed to restore security and create jobs to help pull Haiti's poor out of their state of despair, won the election earlier this year.

Haiti's Ambassador to the Bahamas Louis Harold Joseph believes that with economic improvement, fewer Haitians would be inclined to make the desperate voyage to the Bahamas and other countries in search of better opportunities.

"Certainly, a stabilized country will have an impact on the economy," Mr. Joseph said in an interview with the Bahama Journal on Thursday.

"First of all, that will allow the government of Haiti to concentrate on more important matters in the country, particularly alleviating the situation of the poor people in the country and put everything in place for the economy to work properly."

He noted though that many Haitians living in the Bahamas have been contributing to the economic development of the country for decades and believes that there is a way this can continue to happen legally.

It's why Mr. Joseph supports the establishment of a labour accord between the Bahamas and Haiti whereby the Bahamas would get labourers from Haiti when needed.

"Since we're going to have a new government, I cannot get into details because I don't yet know what will be the position of the new government, but I think this is one possibility," the ambassador said.

The labour according is also something that government officials like former Labour Minister Vincent Peet and Foreign Affairs Minister Fred Mitchell both believe can work.

Bahamas High Commissioner to CARICOM A. Leonard Archer also believes that a labour accord would be mutually beneficial for the Bahamas and Haiti.

On Thursday, Mr. Joseph said the kind of stability Haiti is beginning to experience with presidential and legislative elections now history, would also help foster greater investments in the country by outsiders, including Haitians who live in other countries.

"A stabilized country certainly could attract more investments. People will be more willing to go to Haiti and work with the business sector," he said.

"We are on the right path toward democracy and at this particular time Haiti deserves the support of the international community as well as that of all our neighbours and particularly our sister nations in CARICOM."

Minister Mitchell also said recently that CARICOM expects that Haiti will take its seat again around the table after Mr. Preval is inaugurated.

Mr. Joseph said he thinks the promises between the Bahamas and Haiti are great.

He also noted that over the last 15 years or so there was no economic growth in Haiti, but the population has been increasing.

Mr. Joseph said that the Bahamas has traditionally supported Haiti and Haiti expects that that support will continue.

"We need that support at this particular phase because the political situation in Haiti is always fragile, particularly at this time, and we continue to need the support of [the Bahamas]," the ambassador said.

UN powerless as political prisoners waste away in Haiti?

HaitiAction.net

May 4, 2006

by Kevin Pina and Desiree Wayne

On April 6, a UN human rights official in Haiti accused judicial authorities and the US-installed government of illegally imprisoning most of the four thousand people currently behind bars in the country. Among the political prisoners being held in Haiti are former Aristide officials and allies, such as Prime Minister Yvon Neptune, folk singer and activist Annette Auguste -- also known as So Ann -- and former interior minister Jocelerm Privert. Almost all of the four thousand prisoners in Haiti referred to by Thierry Faggart of the UN were arrested following the forced ouster of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide on February 29, 2004. Tom Griffin, attorney and human rights activist wrote to Flashpoints offering his reaction to the UN's recent revelations, quote: "Anyone interested in peace and justice for Haiti has to be overjoyed with the UN's detailed admission and strong condemnation of the interim government's unconstitutional prolonged detention of thousands, based solely on political grounds. But why did it take the UN more two years to issue this blockbuster condemnation?" End quote. Joining Flashpoints correspondent Kevin Pina to discuss the UN and human rights in Haiti is Desiree Wayne, a former prosecutor in Houston, Texas, and the current Chief Prosecutor for the International Tribunal on Haiti.

In Berkeley, I'm Nora Barrows-Freedman; you're listening to Flashpoints on Pacifica Radio.

[transcript courtesy of : Kevin Saliger]

Desiree Wayne: This is the second time the chief of the United Nations human rights mission in Haiti has accused the judicial officials of detaining, illegally, prisoners there. I mean there are almost four thousand people behind bars in Haiti, in what is being called a sort of preventive detention, where there are no charges being filed, there is no judicial process going on at all. What concerns me about Mr. Faggart's continuing criticism of the interim government is his inability to actually do anything. The United Nations has the power, we would hope, with their three thousand troops in Port-au-Prince, to do something about the fact that the Haitian National Police and the penitentiary are holding these people without charges. We have to see some action on behalf of the United Nations in order to alleviate the problem. [You] can not hold somebody in jail without charges or without any process for over two years.

Kevin Pina: Well you know what I don't understand, and maybe you can help myself and my listeners to understand, is that on one hand the United Nations clearly has the role of keeping the interim government -- we know that was a government that was selected through an unconstitutional process, basically through this Council of the Wise that was appointed by the United States government, basically selected by the United States government -- and the UN's role has really been to keep that government in power, at the same time having the role of ensuring public security and order. Do you think that the United Nations couldn't have possibly known that the judicial system was holding people for no other reason than their political affiliations and beliefs since the beginning of the United Nations mission?

Wayne: Of course, they must have known that these prisoners were being held for no other reason, and there are some allegations that the United Nations has even been complicit in, actually, their arrest and continued detention. We have had reports that the United Nations forces were bringing, providing transportation and acting at the behest of the Haitian National Police, and actually incarcerating some of these people. There've been people who have been arrested by the United Nations forces, brought to the Haitian National Penitentiary, left there, and the United Nations then washes there hands of the whole thing, saying that we have no authority to help, or to make sure that these people are treated fairly or justly. Well, I think that is turning a blind eye to a problem that you have created yourself. They can not continue to condemn and chastise the interim government with only words, when they ought to have the power and the ability to provide for some kind of a judicial mechanism to see that these people are put through some sort of process, that they are allowed some way to see in the future that their cases may be handled in some way.

Pina: Well it would be unrealistic to assume that maybe, if they were really serious about it, that they would at least at minimum consider stopping collaborating with the Haitian police by incarcerating, arresting individuals themselves, and turning them over to the PNH and the screw-up judiciary.

Wayne: They could stop their collaboration, but wouldn't it be better if the United Nations had the expertise, and they had people who have worldwide acclaim and are held in high esteem, like Thierry Faggart, who know how a judicial process ought to work? And wouldn't it be better, instead of removing themselves altogether, to provide some kind of a guidance, to provide some kind of assistance to the judiciary, or to create, or to help the Haitian people to create a judiciary that will provide some kind of a process? We can ask the United Nations to disengage, but if they have the resources and the expertise to provide the kind of guidance that would in the end give some help to these people, I think that the wholesale disengagement might not be the right thing.

Pina: Well, but isn't the response by the government of Prime Minister Gerard Latortue -- within the same week of Faggart's announcement, Gerard Latortue, who of course was the US-backed, US-installed prime minister after Aristide's forced ouster, Latortue announced that there was going to be an investigation into the judiciary, and in fact had said that they were investigating reports that at least twenty judges and prosecutors had been taking bribes. So hasn't Faggart really begun this process of investigation, a real investigation now by the interim government into corruption by the judiciary?

Wayne: Let's hope so, and let's hope that an investigation into past corruption will lead to a process that will allow us to put in place a mechanism to help the people who are still being incarcerated. You know, we can look at these twenty judges and prosecutors, and perhaps they have taken bribes, and those reports have been widespread, numerous, and long on-going. It is not just since April 2006 that the Latortue government and the United Nations have had reports that judges and prosecutors were taking bribes in order to release people.

Pina: What about investigation into the opposite, which is into judges that have, for political motivations, been keeping people behind bars, because of their political affiliations and beliefs. I don't see that anywhere in Gerard Latortue and the Haitian government's announcement of this investigation.

Wayne: And at this point I believe that the interim government has no incentive to make that kind of allegation. We have to look at the timing of all of this. We have a supposedly lame-duck government

headed out of office, and here in the waning days of his power Gerard Latortue is trying to, is announcing a commission to investigate these crimes that have been on-going throughout the length of his administration. We have to hope that this investigation of the judges and prosecutors taking bribes is the first step in correcting past injustices. And we also have to hope that they are not doing this in order to hamstring or to hold at bay any attempts by the incoming Preval government to correct these past injustices as well.

Pina: Now, Desiree, be honest with me. You of course are familiar with what's been going on in Haiti the last two years, you've been our Chief Prosecutor in the International Tribunal on Haiti, looking into the gross human rights violations that have been committed the last two years. Do you really think that the government of Gerard Latortue is capable of investigating itself in a transparent manner?

Wayne: At this point it's almost impossible to believe that that would be true. But we have to hold some hope that they will investigate themselves, and it will be transparent. But we have to watch very carefully, you know, you can look at the history of the Latortue government, and it is not one that has been elected by anybody for anything, they have no accountability, so they have no incentive to do anything. We're going to look at the Preval government and hope they will do better.

Pina: Well I think myself and a lot of people have been holding out hope for a long time that things will be better, and I think that you raised a fundamental question for us all, it is: at the end of the day, if there are political prisoners in Haiti -- we know there are political prisoners in Haiti -- and lives have been destroyed, and families have been separated -- who at the end of the day is going to pay for all of this? Is this just merely a question of reconciliation in Haiti, now that there is a new elected government, therefore we're just supposed to wash it under the rug, or can somebody really be held accountable for destroying these lives of people, for no other reason than their political beliefs and their political affiliations?

Wayne: We have to hope so. There are mechanisms in place, and there's the work of the International Tribunal on Haiti. We are going to continue to investigate past abuses and current abuses by the Latortue government, and we will continue to investigate abuses that go on in the future, because the problem of impunity is what allows this to continue. We have to hope that the light being shone on this problem from the United States and from, hopefully, other countries like Canada and France who have citizens who understand the role that their government has played, will be enough to show the Haitian people the way to move forward. And the way to move forward can not be just erasing history. We know that by moving forward we can institute democracy and gather democratic principles, but we can not do that if behind that is a history, a generation of people who have seen that democracy snatched away from their hands and they have no retribution, have seen no one pay. How that ends up playing itself out will be yet to be seen, and it's something for the Haitian people to determine that for themselves. I think there are many models we can look at. We have a truth and reconciliation type of process that has been installed in Haiti, we can look at the kinds of processes that have gone on in other countries like Cambodia, that have had these kinds of armed rebellions and destruction of institutions, to see what will work for the Haitian people. We'll have to see what the Haitian people decide will work for them.

Pina: I want to thank you. Today's guest again on Flashpoints has been Desiree Wayne. Desiree Wayne is a former prosecutor in Houston, Texas, she's currently practicing law in Colorado, and she's also the

Chief Prosecutor for the International Tribunal on Haiti. Desiree Wayne, thank you so very much for you're time.

Wayne: Thank you for having me, Kevin.

Workers Petition Against AFL-CIO Activities in Venezuela, Haiti, and Iraq
by Worker to Worker Committee
Thursday, May. 04, 2006
San Francisco Bay Area Indymedia

Please sign the petition at <http://www.petitiononline.com/AFLNED06/aflcio.gif>, image/gif, 180x182

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE AFL-CIO
- Regarding the 'Solidarity Center' - American Center for International Labor Solidarity (ACILS)

To: All

As workers, we know that the only way for us to protect our interests in this age of corporate globalization and US Empire is to stand together in solidarity, across national boundaries.

It troubles us greatly to know that the AFL-CIO, the largest organization representing US workers, has been associated with anti-worker and anti-democratic activities abroad. This has included a history of partnerships with the CIA and State Department in attacking labor groups, and collaborating with dictatorships or supporting the overthrow of elected governments. Two of the best known of these labor-US government interventions led to the overthrow of the Salvador Allende government in Chile in 1973, and the unsuccessful Venezuela coup in 2002.

Today, the AFL-CIO's Solidarity Center is one of four core institutes of the National Endowment for Democracy, partnering with the International Republican Institute, the National Democratic Institute, and the Center for International Private Enterprise (Chambers of Commerce). The Solidarity Center is more than 90 per cent funded by the federal government. Most of its funding is from the State Department (via the NED and USAID) and the Department of Labor.

Whatever genuine solidarity work the Solidarity Center has done—and it has done some—it does not give it license to advance corporate interests as an arm of US foreign policy by sponsoring politically aligned labor organizations against progressive trade unionists and popular governments.

In Venezuela, the Solidarity Center worked with and funded what it called the "flagship organizations" behind illegal, company-initiated lockouts of oil workers and the failed coup against the democratically elected government of Hugo Chavez.

In Haiti, the Solidarity Center has only supported a labor organization that agitated for the ousting of the democratically elected government of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, while failing to act against or condemn the massive persecution of pro-Lavalas, pro-Aristide, public sector trade unionists since the 2004 coup. Furthermore, the Solidarity Center's partner in the NED, in line with the Bush Agenda, is the International Republican Institute, which funded, prepared and trained the perpetrators of the coup.

In Iraq, where 50 per cent of NED funding is now directed, the Solidarity Center plays an active role backing a US occupation despised by Iraqi workers. It recognizes only one of several union centers. That federation is the only center participating in the government empowered by the Bush Administration, and the only one to state support for the occupation. Choosing to support one union

over others violates the AFL-CIO's own primary principle recognizing the rights of workers to choose who will represent them. That principle is called "Freedom of Association."

These activities are carried out in the name of AFL-CIO rank and file, and are paid for with tax dollars. Whether we are in the AFL-CIO or not, as workers we feel that the AFL-CIO, is OUR organization. It is outrageous that the AFL-CIO accepts funding and backing for its so-called "Solidarity Center" from the Bush Administration or from any administration whose agenda sells out the interests of workers for the sake of corporate interests and political power. We all know that the Bush Administration does not give one dime to any group that does not advance its anti-worker agenda at home and abroad.

The AFL-CIO should never use our credibility as workers to undermine the struggles of workers abroad – to serve as a government weapon for Corporate America. The struggles of workers abroad to improve their conditions are part of our own struggle in the US for a better future. It is totally unacceptable that Solidarity Center activities are done behind the backs of US workers, without any honest reporting and with closed books. It is unaccountable to AFL-CIO unions and certainly to the rank and file. It does not report finances in the manner demanded, by law, of every local union.

We are affronted by the anti-democratic measures that were used by top-level AFL-CIO leaders to prevent a full and honest floor discussion at the 2005 AFL-CIO National Convention in Chicago of the "Build Unity and Trust With Workers Worldwide" resolution. That resolution to account for and end foreign activities tied to government agencies was submitted with unanimous approval by the 2004 Convention of the California State AFL-CIO, representing 2.4 million workers. We cannot accept this distortion of trade union democracy that enables top-level AFL-CIO officials to make deals with the Bush Administration (or any other) to intervene against the will of workers abroad and the sovereignty of nations.

Therefore, in accord with the unanimous vote in the California Labor Federation, we join the call for:

- 1) The Solidarity Center to immediately terminate its collaboration with the Bush Administration and the NED, withdraw as one of the four core institutes of the NED, refuse to re-enter such relationships in the future and stop all collaboration with the agents of US government foreign policy and corporate globalization;
- 2) The AFL-CIO to open its books about all projects, past, present, and future, undertaken by the Solidarity Center and predecessor groups that carried out AFL-CIO foreign operations. These would include, but not be limited to, operations that preceded the coup against Salvador Allende in Chile in 1973, the attempted coup against Hugo Chavez in Venezuela in 2002, operations in Haiti leading up to and following the coup, and current activities in and/or related to Iraq. We want detailed reports on a country-by-country basis wherever the Solidarity Center is active—and an immediate termination of any operations that are not specifically intended to help workers in that country

Failed States

The Strategy Page

May 7, 2006

The most common cause of war is poor leadership. All it takes is for the king/president/tyrant to make a few mistakes, and there you have a war. The damn things are easy to start, but so hard to stop. So it should come as no surprise that nations that are poorly run, are the most prone to being embroiled in wars or other internal violence. A recent NGO survey of "Failed States" came up with a list led by Sudan, Congo, Ivory Coast, Iraq, Zimbabwe, Chad, Somalia, Haiti, Pakistan and Afghanistan. All are currently undergoing wars or serious internal disorder. This should come as no surprise, as the ranking for the "failed states" concentrated the ability of the government to maintain order, and sustain economic activity and growth. That means rule of law, and efficient government services.

Doing these rankings is regular favorite with political science groups. It's an easy target, because there is such a clear and direct link between effective national leadership, and peace and prosperity. Despite that, why do so many dysfunctional countries continue to exist? Partly it's because many parts of the world are still making the transition from tribal or monarchy cultures, to what we call the "nation state". The older tribal and monarchy (feudal) forms rely on family ties, not democracy, for selecting leaders. This does not work well in the long run, and is prone to frequent civil wars. The tribal cultures also tend to have a lot of factionalism, and often well armed and aggressive factions as well.

Adding to the confusion is that nearly everyone says they have a functioning nation state, even when they don't. So many countries put a lot of effort into pretending they are a functioning nation state. Many of the nations who earn the "failed state" category provide a strange experience for visitors. Government officials pretend they know what they are doing, when they do anything at all. But it's all old school, where the rules are made up as you go along and it's every clique for itself.

"Law and Order" means that disputes are settled via courts, not the extended use of guns. A failed state has no functioning legal system. It usually has what looks like a legal system, but it's just for show, and outcomes are bought, or otherwise arranged via knowing the right people.

The lack of law and order and a legal system makes it impossible for the economy to thrive, thus there is a lot of poverty. That provides an ample supply of young gunslingers. So all those wars in failed states should come as no surprise. The corruption in failed states is often of epic proportions. For example, even though the Iraqi government estimates that \$4.2 billion of oil revenue (about 20 percent of the total) was stolen last year, more was spent on infrastructure and government services last year than in any year during the last two decades of Saddam's rule. Saddam was a master thief, and corrupt to the core.

Turning a failed state into a functioning one is a combination of leadership and mass acceptance of personal responsibility for making a nation state work. Many people in failed states know this, but making it happen has proved difficult. Greed and fear of change keep the old, bad, ways in play.

Haiti's New President Quietly Makes the Rounds

Sarah McGregor
The Embassy Mag,
May 3, 2006

Without fanfare, Haitian president-elect René Préval slips into Ottawa. Meeting with the PM, he asks Canada to stay the course and tells the diaspora they can count on dual citizenship.

With little publicity, Haitian president-elect René Préval arrived in Ottawa this week for a series of private meetings with Canadian officials, including Prime Minister Stephen Harper, to get relations off to a good start with one of the Caribbean nation's largest aid donors.

An evening reception at the Lac-Leamy Hotel in Gatineau kicked off the visit on Sunday attended by most heads of mission from the Caribbean and Latin American diplomatic corps, federal bureaucrats, business leaders and members of the Haitian diaspora, where Mr. Préval was warmly embraced --quite literally with hugs and gentle arm squeezes.

After being greeted and working his way through the throng of several hundred invited guests, Préval addressed the crowd, earning applause for his pledge to build bridges to Haitians living abroad and recognize them as dual citizens. "Haitians who are here in the country for economic or other reasons need to be recognized as Haitians abroad," says Mr. Préval, in French.

Nandy Jacques, a nurse at the Gatineau Hospital, CHVO, has roots in Haiti, and approached Mr. Préval at the event to ask for a constitutional change so that Haitians living abroad are no longer denied the right to vote in elections. "He gets the message," says Mr. Jacques.

Remittances -- money sent home from Haitians living elsewhere -- climbed to \$650 million (US) in 2002, and accounts for 19 per cent of the country's total gross domestic product, according to the World Bank. An estimated 2 million Haitians live off the island, including about 50,000 in Canada, mostly based in Montreal, Quebec. Mr. Jacques says the government cannot ignore this powerful force. "He's my president, and so working with us on Haiti is a good idea," he says.

In an unscripted speech, Mr. Préval says that Haiti will depend on overseas aid in its bid to create positive conditions for investment and social programs. Internal unrest, political instability and faltering international support have stymied development in Haiti for decades.

The immediate priority is to restore security, he says. "We know the conditions are difficult in Haiti," he says. High on his agenda is a strong judicial system that will promote respect for the law and punish those who break the rules, he says.

Mr. Préval was named as the democratically elected president earlier this year, but his inauguration was postponed to May 14 so the ceremony would include parliamentarians, elected in a run-off vote in late April. Former president Jean-Bertrand Aristide was forced from office in 2004, and an interim government has run the country since.

In an endeavor to bring good fortunes to the country, Mr. Préval called for the participation of business groups, civil society, religious groups and foreign donors to make big gains.

Mr. Harper has promised to stay the course in Haiti. International Cooperation Minister Josée Verner and Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay announced in a news release this week an additional \$48 million in aid to support democracy building in Haiti, including \$18 million for debt relief. Haiti, the poorest country of the Americas, is the largest recipient of Canadian assistance in the region. Canada has spent \$190 million over the past two years.

NDP Foreign Affairs Critic Alexa McDonough says that Mr. Préval must be given a free hand to drive democratic reform. The Canadian MP returned last month from a whirlwind five-day parliamentary mission to Haiti -- her first visit to the country -- to see close-up the state of affairs. "People don't want to look back, they want to look forward," says Ms. McDonough, when asked what struck her the most.

On the issue of Haiti, Ms. McDonough says political parties in Canada should be able to settle their differences and do what's best for the Caribbean nation. "It's a matter of asking 'What can we help you with?'" she says, noting that question must be posed not only to Mr. Préval, but to the entire population of 8.3 million in the French-speaking nation.

Peter Goldring, a Conservative MP, was also part of the delegation and a first-time visitor to the country. "It's an absolute tragedy," he says of the struggle for many Haitians to survive and the crumbling infrastructure. "I think our prime minister has indicated positively an interest to be part of the solution to rebuild the country... within the president of Haiti's wishes and within his expectation."

John Graham, chair of the board of directors at the Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL) in Ottawa, says the invitation of Mr. Préval to Canada's capital is a good sign that the new Conservative government will keep Haiti "as a priority."

The four-day trip included a stop in Montreal yesterday and will wrap up today in Quebec City.

On a related note, reports early this week quoted Haitian officials -- including former cabinet ministers under Mr. Aristide and a former prime minister and now top adviser to Mr. Préval-- as saying they have been barred entry to Canada over claims they committed crimes against humanity, even though they've never been charged. Interim prime minister Gérard Latortue, in Ottawa earlier this year, asked the government to lift travel restrictions on political supporters of former regimes. "Help us, forget about that... give a chance to all Haitians now to be able to reconcile once again and be able to work together," he says.

Haiti returning to Caricom
Caribbean Broadcasting Corp, Barbados
Wednesday, 03 May 2006

Caribbean foreign ministers say now is the time for them to mount a special visit to Haiti, in preparation for that country's re-entry into Caricom.

Fred Mitchell of the Bahamas says, given that recent elections were free and fair, the Council of Foreign Ministers has agreed to allow Haiti to rejoin the regional grouping.

Mitchell told CBC News that President-Elect, Rene Preval also indicated willingness for his country to be part of Caricom when they met in New York in March.

Caribbean Storms
04 May 2006
Source: Reuters

HAVANA, - Small Caribbean and Central American countries have suffered devastation and thousands of deaths from increasingly frequent hurricanes, and forecasters predict another rough season this year for the region and its tourist resorts.

International relief agencies warn poor countries are not prepared to cope with the disasters and say deaths will continue to rise.

A record-breaking 2005 Atlantic hurricane season brought 28 tropical storms, 15 of which became full-blown hurricanes.

Cuba's National Weather Institute predicted on Tuesday that there will be an above-average 15 tropical storms this year, and at least nine are expected to become hurricanes.

That's because water temperatures in the Atlantic-Caribbean basin remain warm and there is no sign of a counteracting El Nino phenomenon in the Pacific, said Cuban forecaster Maritza Ballester. The first storm will form in late June or early July, she predicted, with three arising in the Gulf of Mexico.

"Everything points to an active season," said Ballester, developer of a mathematical model for predicting hurricanes.

Hurricane Katrina, which wrecked New Orleans and killed about 1,300 people in August, brought home to Americans a scenario of devastation familiar to inhabitants of the Caribbean and Central America.

Mudslides buried entire villages and floods washed away homes and roads in Central America when Hurricane Stan drenched the region for a week in October. More than 2,000 people died, mainly in Guatemala.

Hurricane Wilma briefly became the most intense Atlantic hurricane ever observed before hovering over Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula for two days, causing heavy damage to Cancun and Cozumel resorts where tourists were trapped in their hotels.

Haiti, the hemisphere's poorest country, is by far the most vulnerable. It has been virtually stripped of trees, which are cut down for charcoal, allowing for erosion and devastating flash floods and mudslides.

Two years ago, 3,000 people died in its third-largest city Gonaives when Tropical Storm Jeanne triggered flash floods.

Barren, parched, brown hillsides loom on the outskirts of the port city on Haiti's west coast. Jeanne's heavy rains saturated the hills, sending torrents of mud into Gonaives in September 2004. Muddy water reached the roof of the two-story Chachou Hotel in the center of the city.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

U.N. experts say environmental degradation, the lack of governability and acute poverty make Haiti the most complicated case, and loss of life is lower in other Caribbean states.

English-speaking Caribbean nations have decreased hurricane casualties through preparedness and early-warning systems, but the economic impact on their small economies grows larger.

"While the deaths are decreasing, the economic losses are increasing," said Jeremy Collymore, head of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency, a CARICOM initiative set up in 1991 to handle disaster management from Barbados.

In 2004, Hurricane Ivan damaged 90 percent of Grenada's housing and caused \$2.2 billion in destruction, more than double its annual economic output. Grenada officials said it would take the island 10 years to recover.

Wealthier Caribbean nations, such as the Cayman Islands, an off-shore financial haven, have not escaped the wrath of storms but can get back on their feet faster.

Ivan damaged or destroyed 93 percent of the housing on the Cayman Islands, ranked fifth in the world in per capita income (\$35,000 a year). The real estate market has since bounced back, fueling a construction boom. But higher rates for homeowner insurance have pushed up the cost of living.

MANDATORY EVACUATION

Some countries, such as Jamaica and Belize, have tried to beef up their evacuation plans for hurricanes, taking a cue from Cuba, which has the best record in avoiding fatalities. Countries focus on getting residents out of precarious buildings.

A recent U.N. Development Program study concluded that the risk of dying in a hurricane in the United States was 15 times higher than in communist-run Cuba.

Cuba has been hit by 14 major storms in the last 20 years, but fewer than 40 deaths have been reported. President Fidel Castro's government has reduced hurricane deaths to a minimum through mandatory evacuations.

Some 2 million of Cuba's 11 million people were evacuated before Ivan passed by, skirting the western tip of the island.

Western diplomats in Havana said this was only possible in a one-party state, but no democratically elected government could resort to such drastic steps.

According to Angeles Arenas, a UNDP advisor on regional disaster reduction, evacuation is fine but very costly, and few poor nations can afford to do the same.

Moreover, the run-down state of 43 percent of its housing makes Cuba vulnerable to a disaster, said Arenas, who works for the UNDP's Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery.

"You don't need a category 5 hurricane, just a category 2 and intense rains...Losses would be much greater," she said.

(Additional reporting by Alan Markoff in Gran Cayman)

Advocating for Haiti's Eligibility for Millennium Challenge Aid
Haiti Democracy Project
May 1, 2006

Millennium Challenge Corp.

Amb. Ernest H. Preeg

On April 27, 2006 at a meeting of the Center for Global Development with officials of the Millennium Challenge Corp., Ambassador Preeg advocated consideration for Haiti as a threshold country approaching eligibility for grants on grounds of recent improvement.

The Millennium Challenge sets criteria for grants to poor countries including political freedom, progress against corruption, and economic openness. Haiti scored well in three of the economic categories (click here to see the list) but missed on the political and corruption scores because of deterioration under the previous regime. Ambassador Preeg considered that the success of recent elections could lead Haiti to score higher politically, and based on a willingness to tackle corruption, Haiti should be considered for threshold status.

Amb. Ernest H. Preeg is chairman of the board of the Haiti Democracy Project and former U.S. ambassador to Haiti. He is author of *The Haitian Dilemma: A Case Study of Demographics, Development and U.S. Foreign Policy*.

Reporters Without Borders
Haiti - Annual report 2006
May 3, 2006

Haiti

Area : 27,750 sq.km.

Population : 8,530,000.

Languages : Creole, French.

Head of state : President Boniface Alexandre.

The shock of the July 2005 murder of journalist Jacques Roche, literary columnist for the daily paper Le Matin, marred the fairly good prospects for the media since the fall of President Aristide, even though his supporters have not disarmed and the interim government has not ended impunity.

The record of the interim government that replaced President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in February 2004 has not been encouraging. Corruption has continued, along with impunity and increasing lawlessness that UN peacekeepers (MINUSTAH) have not managed to curb. Between May and October 2005, \$6 million was paid out to kidnappers and some 200,000 illegal weapons are in the hands of the population. Kidnapping were often by Aristide supporters who retain control of some parts of the capital. The media has also been victim of this situation. A shootout between UN troops and Haitian ex-soldiers in the town of Petit-Goâve on 20 March killed radio journalist Laraque Robenson, of Tele Contact. Richard Widmaier, owner of Radio Métropole, escaped a bid to kidnap him on 11 June and five days later, Nancy Roc, presenter of the station's programme "Metropolis," fled abroad after getting telephoned kidnapping threats for a week. Journalist Jacques Roche, cultural editor for the daily Le Matin, was kidnapped on 10 July in Port-au-Prince and his tortured body found four days later in the street. The kidnapping began as a routine affair but changed when the kidnappers realised who he was and that he had once been involved with the anti-Aristide Group of 184. The investigation into his death made rapid progress, but those into the murder in 2000 of Jean Dominique, boss of Radio Inter, and Brignol Lindor, of Radio Echo 2000, in Petit-Goâve in 2001, remained stalled. Despite promises made to a Reporters Without Borders fact-finding mission in 2004, nobody has been punished in these two cases. After nearly a year's gap, a new judge was named on 3 April 2005 to investigate the Dominique murder, five years to the day after the killing, but he had no resources. Three suspects in the case escaped from prison in February and the masterminds have never been arrested. The Lindor murder case-file has been pending before the supreme court since 21 April 2003. One of the suspected killers was arrested by local people on 30 March 2005 and handed over to police but for another offence.

Sudan most vulnerable state, study says
ESTANISLAO OZIEWICZ
The Globe and Mail, Canada
May 3, 2006

Sudan, where the brutal civil war in Darfur is contributing to the world's worst humanitarian crisis, has emerged as the planet's most vulnerable state.

Along with Sudan, the Top 10 list in the annual "failed state" index includes five other African countries, Iraq, Afghanistan (where Canadian troops and diplomats are trying to turn things around), turmoil-ridden Haiti and even Asian giant Pakistan, according to a new study.

Sudan vaulted to top spot from a No. 3 ranking last year, changing places with Ivory Coast. Sudan received low grades in virtually all areas surveyed, including protection of human rights, "group grievances" against the government and numbers of refugees and displaced persons.

"Sudan appears as the world's most vulnerable country because of its poor ratings in the areas of group grievance and human rights," the study says.

The ranking, produced by Foreign Policy magazine and the Washington-based Fund for Peace think tank, uses 12 social, economic, political and military indicators.

The scores are based on data from more than 11,000 publicly available sources collected from July to December last year. The index includes 148 states.

The authors define a failing state as one in which the government does not have effective control of its own territory, is not perceived as legitimate by a significant portion of its population, does not provide domestic security or basic public services and lacks a monopoly on the use of force.

The study says that Iraq (No. 4, the same as last year) and Afghanistan (No. 9, up one spot) may have rid themselves of abusive regimes, but are still not on the path of stability, despite elections and new constitutions.

For Iraq, the category with the greatest decline was human flight. The study says that an exodus of Iraq's professional class has accelerated, leaving the country without enough trained citizens.

In Afghanistan, the problem is somewhat different. With the fall of the Taliban, many exiles living in neighbouring countries returned. But those who had emigrated to North America and Europe have been slow to go back, leaving the country lacking in skilled workers.

Pakistan jumped to ninth spot on the list, up from 34th last year, one of the sharpest reversals. The government's inability to police the tribal areas near the Afghan border, the devastating earthquake last October and rising ethnic tensions were contributing factors.

In what some will see as a slap to U.S. President George Bush, the study notes that Venezuela, a leftist burr in the President's saddle, is a winner in this year's index, going from 21st spot to 64th.

"Although President Hugo Chavez's economic policies may not have benefited the majority of Venezuelans," the report says, "his scalding anti-American rhetoric combined with high oil prices have helped him solidify power and stabilize the country -- at least in the short term."

One of the most disquieting aspects of the study is the observation that the most vulnerable countries have the youngest populations. Most have a median age under 20 years. The most stable have median ages over 33.

Sudan's population has a median age of only 18.

Canada is among the Top 10 least vulnerable countries, ranking eighth between Belgium and Australia.

Risky business

Using 12 social, economic, political and military indicators, the magazine Foreign Policy and the Fund for Peace ranked 148 states in order of their vulnerability to internal violence and upheaval.

The worst ranked countries

Rank Country

- 1 Sudan
- 2 Dem. Rep. of the Congo
- 3 Ivory Coast
- 4 Iraq
- 5 Zimbabwe
- 6 Chad, Somalia
- 7 Haiti
- 8 Pakistan
- 9 Afghanistan
- 10 Liberia, Guinea

The best ranked countries

Rank Country

- 1 Norway
- 2 Sweden
- 3 Finland
- 4 Ireland
- 5 Switzerland
- 6 New Zealand
- 7 Australia
- 8 Canada
- 9 Belgium
- 10 Denmark

For better, for worse

These countries gained and lost the most points on the index

Biggest loss

Country Change

Zimbabwe -14

Pakistan -13.7

Nigeria -10.1

China -10

Biggest gain

Country Change

Venezuela +12

Dominican Republic +9.2

Guatemala +6.7

Bosnia - Herzegovina +5

SOURCE: FOREIGN POLICY

Digicel launches in Haiti today

Julian Richardson

The Jamaica Observer

Wednesday, May 03, 2006

As part of its continued expansion across the Caribbean region, Digicel Group will today officially launch its mobile cellular network in Haiti - a project that cost the telecom and its minority partner GB Group SA, US\$130 million in debt and equity.

Yesterday, Colm Delves, Digicel Group CEO, told the Business Observer that the International Finance Corporation (IFC) "are a significant provider of finance for the project", but declined to provide details of its participation.

Delves said that Digicel already had 10,000 "top-up" locations and a full complement of highly trained staff in the impoverished country, and that his company enjoyed a competitive advantage due to the fact that it would be offering a more "refined service" than its competitors.

"The people of Haiti have had to put up with a woefully inadequate service, unreliable networks and inferior technology for too long," charged Delves. "We are going to change that and revolutionise mobile telecommunications in Haiti with reliable coverage, superior customer care, a wide range of state-of-the-art handsets, and a wide range of services which were non-existent heretofore."

Haiti has some eight million people, but a very low level of cellular penetration, in part due to its poverty, and lack of competition in that market.

"Statistics we have been seeing state that the level of fixed and mobile penetration combined, is approximately 5.6 per cent of which approximately 3.4 per cent relates to mobile," said Delves. "Hence, there is major scope to increase this level of penetration, particularly with an official population of eight million plus and probably higher."

The Haitian project comes on the heels of Monday's announcement that the Digicel Group had acquired a GSM licence in Bonaire. The licence came through the acquisition of majority shareholding in Antilliano Por N V, the entity that now holds a business licence to operate telecommunications in Bonaire and a federal licence to operate a telecommunications company in the Netherlands Antilles.

This latest licence increases Digicel's coverage across the Netherlands Antilles, and allows the mobile operator to connect all three ABC islands - Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao.

Digicel first entered the Netherlands Antilles with its launch in Aruba in 2002 and expanded further into the region in March 2005 through the acquisition of Curacao Telecom.

Five years ago, Digicel began providing service operations in Kingston, Jamaica. Within just three months of its launch, the company signed up 100,000 new customers.

Digicel Jamaica recently recorded 1.5 million subscribers.

With operation in Haiti, Digicel now operates in 17 Caribbean countries covering a total population of over 22 million. It has invested over US\$1 billion invested in the region, making it the largest mobile operator in the Caribbean.

The Irish firm, before entering Haiti, maintained an average market share of 63 per cent across the islands of its existing operations. Delves believes that his company has the ability to penetrate a relatively under-serviced market in Haiti.

The telecom is now planning on securing licences in Guyana and Suriname.

Digicel launches mobile phone service in Haiti
Caribbean Net News
Wednesday, May 3, 2006

PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti: On Wednesday, Digicel will officially launch its mobile phone service in Haiti. The company will be giving away free phones for those customers willing to terminate service with existing providers.

It is expected to be an historic moment in Haiti, a symbol of the country's future success and stability. Massive amounts of people are expected to gather in anticipation of store openings.

Digicel also announced on Tuesday it has completed its acquisition of Bouygues Telecom Caraïbe, the wholly owned subsidiary of Bouygues Telecom, with assets in Martinique, Guadeloupe and French Guiana.

Bouygues Telecom Caraïbe, which has over 160,000 subscribers and 2005 revenues of Euro 117 million (US\$148 million), was purchased by Digicel Group at the price of Euro 155 million (US\$196 million) after receiving approvals from the government regulator.

Digicel will add three new territories to its existing operations, bringing its total number of operations to a milestone 20 markets since its inception five years ago. With a current staff of approximately 80 people, Digicel looks forward to expanding its existing operations and becoming the leading mobile telecommunications provider in the French West Indies and throughout the Eastern Caribbean.

"We are delighted to welcome the employees and customers of Bouygues Telecom Caraïbe into the Digicel family as we continue our quest to create a seamless pan-Caribbean network," said Denis O'Brien, Chairman and Founder of Digicel Group. "We look forward to providing the residents and visitors of the French West Indian territories with our industry leading service and unmatched customer care."

"As we celebrate our fifth anniversary since our debut launch in Jamaica we are proud to have achieved this milestone of providing top-rate services in twenty nations," added Mr. O'Brien. "Digicel continues to maintain its position as the fastest growing telecommunications company in the Caribbean with a compound annualized growth rate of 69 percent."

In the past 14 months, Digicel has completed four acquisitions including Cingular Wireless' Caribbean and Bermuda operations. This acquisition of Bouygues Telecom Caraïbe provides Digicel with an established pre-paid and post-paid customer base and an advanced GSM network in markets that are populated by more than one million people.

The three territories have economies centered on the Euro as their functional currency and serve as a destination for international tourists including coverage areas in St. Barths and French St. Martin.

"Digicel is a dynamic company in the Caribbean that is bringing tremendous value to consumers by building a pan-Caribbean network that bridges the technology divide from one country to the next," said Philippe Montagner, Chairman and CEO of Bouygues Telecom. "We are confident that customers,

employees and the overall community are in good hands and will benefit from Digicel's presence in the French West Indies."

Digicel plans to increase its subscriber base in the three territories by connecting with consumers and creating positive competition through value offerings and bold marketing. The transition process for Bouygues Telecom Caraïbe customers in the French West Indies is currently being planned as a seamless experience that adds Digicel offerings including the latest handsets, per second billing, prepaid roaming, and Rollover Minutes.

What's ahead for Haiti

The Freeport News

Editorial

May 3, 2006

When Rene Preval is inaugurated President of Haiti on May 14, it will mark another "new" beginning in the tumultuous history of this region's poorest country as it attempts to establish a sustained era of democratic governance that is the key to resolving the many problems that have beset it over the years.

All of the political mechanisms are in place for this to happen. On February 7, 2006, voters in Haiti elected Preval as president and went to the polls again on April 21 for a second round of voting to elect representatives to fill 30 Senate seats and 97 seats in the House of Deputies. Haiti, of course, has been down this road before, but the optimism generated by previous democratic elections did not produce the desired results of putting the country on the road to political stability and economic solvency.

Although it has been an independent republic since 1804, Haiti never held what was recognized as its first free elections until 1989 when populist Roman Catholic priest Jean-Bertrand Aristide was elected president. However, his government was overthrown seven months later in a coup d'état that brought a military regime back to power. With the help of an international force, led by the United States, Aristide was restored to power in 1994, but with only seven months remaining on his term in office, he was constitutionally barred from succeeding himself. In the subsequent election in December of 1995, Preval, who was a political ally of Aristide, was elected President and sworn in on February 7, 1996.

Aristide returned as President in the election held in 2000, but his victory was marred by allegations of election fraud and his administration was rocked by charges of widespread corruption, which eventually led to his departure from Haiti for Central Africa in February of 2004, as rebels were marching towards the capital of Port-au-Prince. He subsequently was granted asylum in South Africa, where he still resides.

With Preval back as President, there has been talk of Aristide returning to Haiti, which has led some political observers to conclude that should he indeed return, Haiti will once again be plunged into political chaos at some point down the road. To be sure, Aristide is still immensely popular among Haiti's poor, which translates into considerable political power, given the fact that Haiti's income per capita is less than one dollar a day and 80 percent of the population are said to live in abject poverty.

Whatever unfolds after Preval is inaugurated later this month, The Bahamas most certainly will be affected one way or the other. Should Preval succeed in putting Haiti on the road to realizing its true potential in the family of democratic nations in this region, there would be no need for thousands of illegal immigrants from that country to risk their lives on unseaworthy boats in search of a better life in The Bahamas. If he fails, Minister of Immigration Shane Gibson and subsequent ministers assigned that portfolio will perpetually have a serious problem to deal with.

Every Bahamian, understandably, is praying that he succeeds.

'Revolution' reveals Haiti's endless heartache

By Wesley Morris

May 2, 2006

The Boston Globe

The scariest part of any "Frontline" documentary, aside from the content, is the music. It's usually a couple of notes from a synthesizer. Depending on the egregiousness of a film's facts, the pitch changes from a low, ominous moan to a spine-tingling horror-movie squeal.

That scoring strategy gets a big workout in "Aristide and the Endless Revolution." An absorbing piece of investigative journalism, it focuses on Haiti's legacy of collapse and its current misfortunes, as tied to Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the country's twice-ousted democratically elected president.

Haiti, of course, is the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere, beset by military rule, a dead treasury, and killer militias happy to pass themselves off as freedom fighters. The film's director, Nicolas Rossier, argues that the international community, particularly the United States and Canada, had the clout, resources, power, and -- in the case of France, Haiti's colonizer -- obligation to help turn the country around. But instead they helped hold a pillow over the country's face, promising money and infrastructure that never arrived.

At the center of all this is Aristide, the former Roman Catholic priest who rose to power as a populist reformer determined to be the voice of the disenfranchised. Entering office in 1990, Aristide spoke out against the military, which for years held Haiti in check, and vowed to construct a functioning government.

He was ousted a few months later, then, with the support of the United States, returned to power in 1994. He was prevented from serving a second consecutive term the following year but came back in 2000 with 80 percent of the vote, only to be driven out in 2004, with approval of the United States.

Rossier has surprising access to a bevy of diplomatic, academic, and administrative heavyweights (including Colin Powell and Noam Chomsky) and Haitian political bigwigs, all with divergent opinions on what went wrong under Aristide's rule. Roger Noriega, a former assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere affairs under George W. Bush, insists that Aristide misgoverned Haiti, adding that he chose to step down in 2004 for the good of his constituents. From what we see of the former president's fiery public speeches, his alleged capitulation seems hard to believe.

Initially, "The Endless Revolution" seems like a bone-dry assessment of Haiti's nightmare. A narrator walks us through events in a tone that's half-professorial, half-sensationalistic. But the movie is rich with powerful supporting imagery (Haitians going crazy for Aristide), cogent conspiratorial information, and damning C-Span congressional footage, as when Representative William Delahunt forces Noriega to admit that his claims of fraud in Aristide's reelection were willfully overblown. In another clip, incisive Representative Maxine Waters demands from one panel of former ambassadors a definition of "coup d'etat."

Rossier also sits down with Aristide, who makes a less stirring case for himself than you'd expect. He seems gentle, eloquent, and still hopeful, but defeated and understandably sad. Who can blame him?

He's in a nice office somewhere being interviewed, while the world allows the country he loves so much to rot.

Wesley Morris can be reached at wmorris@globe.com.

Haiti gets \$48 million boost
Canada contributes to rebuilding
Préval: 'We need help immediately'

May 2, 2006

GRAHAM FRASER
NATIONAL AFFAIRS WRITER
The Toronto Star

OTTAWA—Canada is contributing an additional \$48 million to help Haiti's President-elect René Préval rebuild the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

"It's a critical time for Haiti," Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay told the Star. "Obviously, having now gone through the elections that will necessitate the formation of the new government, this is the time where they need the international community most."

MacKay and Josée Verner, Minister of International Co-operation announced yesterday that Canada is funding a number of projects to help Haiti.

"Canada has an abiding interest there," MacKay said. "We've been very active in the past in helping the Haitian people. We have a large diaspora here in Canada, including most notably our Governor General, so this is when the Haitian people are looking to Canada and we're going to do our part, along with our international partners, to help stabilize and build capacity and good governance in the region."

Governor General Michaëlle Jean will represent Canada at Préval's inauguration May 14.

Of the \$48 million, \$20 million is for a local development program that helps small business promotion, environmental protection and agricultural productivity; \$5 million will strengthen parliament; \$5 million goes to a local fund that supports good governance and human rights, and \$18 million will help pay down Haiti's debt to the Inter-American Development Bank.

The announcement came after Préval met Verner and MacKay in Ottawa yesterday, as part of a three-day visit to Canada.

Préval told reporters the international community has recognized it left Haiti too quickly after restoring the government of Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 1994. Aristide was removed from office February 2004.

Préval said Haitian democracy still needs support, after presidential and legislative elections.

"People voted for the improvement of their lives and this takes resources," he said. "In the capital, we have two hours of electricity a day. Students can't study. Businesses can't operate and industries can't function. We need help immediately." Préval said children need to get back to school, public sector salaries need to be paid, and the streets need to be cleaned.

From April 2004 to the end of March 2006, Canada has spent more than \$190 million on reconstruction and development projects in Haiti.

"The results were tangible," Préval said. "In the community where I live ... Canadian aid enabled us to change the way (of) people's lives. Above all, it is assistance in local governance which allowed local communities to take charge."

He said his own community was transformed as a result of aid from Canada and Taiwan.

Préval said he had the pleasure of meeting the Governor General yesterday, whom he had watched on television when she was a host on Radio-Canada. They first met in March at the installation of Chilean President Michelle Bachelet.

"Really, for Haiti it is a matter of pride that someone of Haitian origin could succeed in Canada," he said.

Préval said double nationality should be created in Haiti so expatriates can recover citizenship and participate in reconstruction of the country.

"If we have eight million Haitians in Haiti, we have four million abroad. In recognizing double nationality, we will have a population of 12 million."

Préval said money sent home by the four million abroad provide \$1.3 billion, or 27 per cent of Haiti's Gross National Product. "Treating them better could double or triple that amount."

Cubans denounce mistreatment in DR
The Dominican Today
May 1, 2006

Six Cubans were arrested in La Mona Island when they tried to make it illegally to Puerto Rico and turned back to the Dominican Republic, their relatives denounced the illegals have been mistreated and by Dominican migration authorities.

Yamilca Batista's husband, Manuel Guerra, claims the detained have not been given their rightful opportunity to make a phone call to notify their embassy of their arrest.

Speaking through their lawyers, Francisco Upia Rodriguez and Ana Yasmín González said the Cubans have been locked up illegally and they have been forced to make declarations against them selves.

In addition, neither Migration nor the M-2 (DR Navy) has offered any information as to what to expect, the repatriation or the return of the arrested Cubans to Haiti, (place where there trip originated).

The six Cubans came from Haiti, penetrated the boarder in to the Dominican Republic where they boarded a boat that took them to Puerto Rico.

They were stopped Saturday 22nd and transferred immediately to the base of Ramay, in Aguadilla, from where they were returned to the Dominican Republic.

Haitian officials say they're barred from Canada

May 1, 2006

By Joseph Guyler Delva

Reuters

POR-T-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (Reuters) - Several former Haitian officials, including President-elect Rene Preval's right-hand man, said on Monday Canada barred them from entering its territory because of what they said were false claims that they committed crimes against humanity.

Officials at the Canadian Embassy in Port-au-Prince were not immediately available for comment.

"The Canadian government has put my name on a blacklist of perpetrators of crimes against humanity," former Prime Minister Jacques Edouard Alexis told Reuters.

"This is outrageous. It is an insult to all honest Haitians and we demand a public apology from the Canadian government," said Alexis, who served during Preval's first presidency and has been appointed to coordinate his transition team.

Canada is one of Haiti's most important aid donors and has pledged to boost its aid program to the impoverished Caribbean country.

Several other former Cabinet ministers and other officials who served under deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide or Preval were reported to be on the list, including former Health Minister Rudolph Malebranche and Philippe Rouzier, a former adviser to Preval who is now a senior official of the United Nations Development Program in Haiti.

Preval, who was elected in February and is to be inaugurated on May 14, expressed outrage about the measure, according to his entourage.

Preval arrived in Canada on Sunday for a three-day visit and was expected to raise the issue with his hosts, including Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Governor General Michaelle Jean, who was born in Haiti.

Those said to be on the blacklist have never been charged or publicly accused of such crimes in Haiti. Some of them accused political opponents of forging the list and providing it to Canadian authorities.

Alexis said he learned of the blacklist as he prepared to travel with Preval and was told he could not enter Canada. He said Canadian authorities decided finally to grant him a visa for the trip but that he then refused it because he wanted the matter completely cleared before he traveled to Canada.

Haiti is "calm," but Brazilian troops will stay there for another six months

Vítor Abdala
Agência Brasil
May 2, 2006

Rio - Brazil will maintain a contingent of 1.2 thousand troops in the MINUSTAH peace force in Haiti in the coming months. This information was released on Sunday (30) by the communications chief of the Brazilian forces there, lieutenant-coronel Fernando Mattos. The Army and the Marines have rotated their personnel every six months. The next substitution will occur this month.

According to Mattos, the 1.2 thousand soldiers presently in Haiti will be replaced by a contingent formed of 215 Marines, 825 men from the 10th Motorized Infantry Brigade of Recife (PE), and 150 military engineers from the Center-West and Minas Gerais.

Mattos observes that the situation in Haiti has been calm since the presidential elections held in February. "In terms of public safety, the number of kidnappings, which amounted to around 160 in December, fell to a half dozen last month. The insecurity that was plaguing the population has been largely eliminated," he said. "But there are still isolated acts. In certain parts of the city you can hear the fire of gunshots."

Mattos explains that 18 Brazilian soldiers in the first three troop contingents in Haiti were wounded. The fourth contingent, which has been in the country since December, has not suffered any victims in armed confrontations.

Translation: David Silberstein

Haiti's president in Ottawa to ask for support
Canadian Press
CTV.ca
May 1, 2006

OTTAWA -- Two weeks before his official swearing-in, Haitian president-elect Rene Preval was in Canada to remind the Canadian government of the enormous challenges his country faces and the need for immediate international aid.

Preval met Monday with Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Minister of International Co-operation Josee Verner, Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay and Gov. Gen. Michaele Jean.

He said his visit was aimed at reminding Canadian leaders how important Canada's support is to Haiti and, more importantly, to emphasize the importance of not disengaging too quickly from the country that is, once again, trying to rebuild.

Canada was part of a United Nations-sanctioned intervention in 1995 that helped return former president Jean Bertrand Aristide to power following a military coup.

International troops pulled out a year later and by 2003, the country was again in turmoil.

Aristide, who had dissolved the Haitian parliament, was overthrown by rebels in 2004.

"Even the international community recognizes that it disengaged too quickly," said Preval, who will be inaugurated May 14.

Preval, a champion of the poor and former Aristide ally, has pledged to restore security and create jobs after the bloody revolt that toppled the former president, plunging the impoverished country deeper into despair. "That's the message I came to deliver: Be careful," he said. "Elections have taken place at the presidential level, at the legislative level, but we have to continue to support this democracy because people voted for an improvement in their lives and that takes resources."

The list of needs is nearly without end.

"We are in a country where we have, in the capital, two hours of electricity per day," Preval said. "Students can't study, businesses can't work, industry can't work. We need immediate aid."

The federal government reiterated that Canada has promised \$48 million to "promote good governance and democracy" in Haiti.

"We are determined to help the Haitian people as they move toward these two objectives," Verner said in a statement issued Monday.

Canada is one of the principal donors to Haiti.

According to the Canadian International Development Agency, Canada has sent approximately \$190 million between April 2004 and the end of March 2006 to the ailing Caribbean country.

Of the \$48 million promised, \$30 million is new money over and above the \$190 million.

A large part of the funds have gone toward the recent elections and the deployment of Canadian police as part of the United Nations mission to stabilize Haiti.

Preval's visit was almost invisible, with few of the normal trappings associated with a foreign dignitary.

There were no news releases or briefings on his meetings with Harper, MacKay or Jean.

There was no joint news conference. The prime minister's office made no announcement of the visit beforehand.

Rideau Hall refused to say what was discussed between the Haitian-both Governor General and her visitor, saying the meeting was private.

Preval was introduced from the gallery of the Commons during question period, an honour routinely accorded visiting parliamentarians and celebrities.

The only obvious result of Preval's visit was a news release announcing a grant of \$48 million to promote good governance and democracy in Haiti.

MacKay said in a statement that Canada will back the new Haitian government in its efforts to stabilize the troubled island.

The government said Preval's visit was informal.

He is to travel to Montreal and Quebec City on Tuesday and Wednesday. The Haitian embassy said he will meet Premier Jean Charest and will visit members of the Haitian-Canadian community.

Visit by Haiti's president-elect Preval kept almost invisible Canadian Press
Canadian Press
Monday, May 01, 2006

OTTAWA (CP) - Rene Preval, Haiti's president-elect, was in Ottawa on Monday, but his visit was almost invisible, with few of the normal trappings associated with a foreign dignitary.

There were no news releases or briefings on his meetings with Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay or Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean. There was no joint news conference. The prime minister's office made no announcement of the visit beforehand.

Rideau Hall refused to say what was discussed between the Haitian-both Governor General and her visitor, saying the meeting was private.

Preval was introduced from the gallery of the Commons during question period, an honour routinely accorded visiting parliamentarians and celebrities.

The only obvious result of Preval's visit was a news release announcing a grant of \$48 million to promote good governance and democracy in Haiti.

MacKay said in a statement that Canada will back the new Haitian government in its efforts to stabilize the troubled island.

The government said Preval's visit was informal because he is not due to be sworn in as president until May 14.

Preval, 63, is both a former president and prime minister of Haiti whose family was exiled for years during the Duvalier dictatorship.

He is to travel to Montreal and Quebec City on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The Haitian embassy said he will meet Premier Jean Charest and will visit members of the Haitian-Canadian community.

Canada Increases Support for Governance and Democracy in Haiti
CCN Matthews
May 1, 2006

OTTAWA, ONTARIO - The Honourable Josee Verner, Minister of International Cooperation, and the Honourable Peter MacKay, Minister of Foreign Affairs, today announced additional financial assistance in an amount of \$48 million to promote good governance and democracy in Haiti. The announcement was made after a meeting with Haiti's President-elect Rene Preval, who is in Canada until May 3.

"Canada's commitment to promoting good governance and democracy speaks to Canadian values and also answers the needs of Haitians," said Minister Verner. "We are determined to support the Haitian people as they pursue these two objectives. I am convinced that Canadian support will be used to reinforce institutions, with the ultimate goal of providing Haitians with a better quality of life."

Canada's additional assistance makes it possible for several projects to move ahead, including the Local Development Program in Haiti (\$20 million) and the project to strengthen Haiti's parliament (\$5 million). Canada will also be providing \$5 million to several organizations promoting democracy and human rights. Finally, \$18 million will be spent on debt relief.

"The Government of Canada is pleased to welcome president-elect Rene Preval during this visit, and ensures him of Canada's support for his government's efforts to address the challenges facing the Haitian people, said Minister MacKay."

Over the last two years, from April 2004 to the end of March 2006, Canada has spent over \$190 million funding reconstruction and development projects in Haiti to meet needs identified by the transitional government. Canada intends to continue cooperating with the government of Mr. Preval. Haiti is the largest beneficiary of Canadian development aid in the Americas.

The funding announced today is built into the existing fiscal framework.

BACKGROUNDER

Projects funded by Canada in Haiti

Local Development Program in Haiti (\$20 million)

A consortium made up of the Centre canadien d'étude et de coopération internationale (CECI), the management consulting firm CRC SOGEMA, the Ecole nationale d'administration publique (ENAP) and the Société de coopération pour le développement international (SOCODEVI) will implement the Local Development Program in collaboration with Haitian institutions.

This program will help these groups take charge of their own local socio-economic development, tackling the problem of poverty directly by emphasizing small business promotion, environmental protection and agricultural productivity. The program will also support the efforts of State institutions

to develop a national policy for local development, and to put in place a coordinating structure that represents all of the local development stakeholders.

Project to strengthen Haiti's Parliament (\$5 million)

The project to strengthen Haiti's Parliament, led by the Centre parlementaire, seeks to build the capacities of Haiti's parliamentary institutions from the standpoint of good governance and national dialogue. This project will support the 48th Parliament of Haiti throughout its five-year mandate. It will consist of three parts: continuing education for newly elected parliamentarians with a view to providing them with the tools and knowledge they need to carry out their duties; capacity building for parliamentary administrative personnel; and provision of equipment that everyone needs to perform their tasks, particularly with respect to research and archives.

Democracy and peace support fund (\$5 million)

This is a local fund that supports good governance and human rights and seeks to promote democracy and peace in Haiti. Over the next five years, the fund will support initiatives involving peaceful conflict resolution, civic education, strengthening of democracy, respect for human rights and a culture of peace -- in other words, the building blocks for inclusive, sustainable development.

Contribution to help pay down debt (\$18 million)

Canada will contribute 18 million dollars to pay down part of Haiti's debt to the Inter-American Development Bank. Through this support, Canada is responding to appeals made by the International Monetary Fund and the Government of Haiti to international donors. By being on schedule in servicing its debt, Haiti will be able to continue receiving support from international financial institutions. Furthermore, this contribution will help maintain a stable macro-economic framework more conducive to private investment and to economic recovery, which are necessary in order to improve the living conditions of the Haitian population.

Haitian president appeals for immediate aid for his troubled nation
Isabelle Rodrigue,
Canadian Press
Monday, May 01, 2006

OTTAWA - Two weeks before his official swearing-in, Haitian president-elect Rene Preval was in Canada to remind the Canadian government of the enormous challenges his country faces and the need for immediate international aid.

Preval met Monday with Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Minister of International Co-operation Josee Verner, Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay and Gov. Gen. Michaele Jean.

He said his visit was aimed at reminding Canadian leaders how important Canada's support is to Haiti and, more importantly, to emphasize the importance of not disengaging too quickly from the country that is, once again, trying to rebuild.

Canada was part of a United Nations-sanctioned intervention in 1995 that helped return former president Jean Bertrand Aristide to power following a military coup.

International troops pulled out a year later and by 2003, the country was again in turmoil.

Aristide, who had dissolved the Haitian parliament, was overthrown by rebels in 2004.

"Even the international community recognizes that it disengaged too quickly," said Preval, who will be inaugurated May 14.

Preval, a champion of the poor and former Aristide ally, has pledged to restore security and create jobs after the bloody revolt that toppled the former president, plunging the impoverished country deeper into despair.

"That's the message I came to deliver: Be careful," he said. "Elections have taken place at the presidential level, at the legislative level, but we have to continue to support this democracy because people voted for an improvement in their lives and that takes resources."

The list of needs is nearly without end.

"We are in a country where we have, in the capital, two hours of electricity per day," Preval said. "Students can't study, businesses can't work, industry can't work. We need immediate aid."

The federal government reiterated that Canada has promised \$48 million to "promote good governance and democracy" in Haiti.

"We are determined to help the Haitian people as they move toward these two objectives," Verner said in a statement issued Monday.

Canada is one of the principal donors to Haiti.

According to the Canadian International Development Agency, Canada has sent approximately \$190 million between April 2004 and the end of March 2006 to the ailing Caribbean country.

Of the \$48 million promised, \$30 million is new money over and above the \$190 million.

A large part of the funds have gone toward the recent elections and the deployment of Canadian police as part of the United Nations mission to stabilize Haiti.

Preval's visit was almost invisible, with few of the normal trappings associated with a foreign dignitary.

There were no news releases or briefings on his meetings with Harper, MacKay or Jean.

There was no joint news conference. The prime minister's office made no announcement of the visit beforehand.

Rideau Hall refused to say what was discussed between the Haitian-both Governor General and her visitor, saying the meeting was private.

Preval was introduced from the gallery of the Commons during question period, an honour routinely accorded visiting parliamentarians and celebrities.

The only obvious result of Preval's visit was a news release announcing a grant of \$48 million to promote good governance and democracy in Haiti.

MacKay said in a statement that Canada will back the new Haitian government in its efforts to stabilize the troubled island.

The government said Preval's visit was informal.

He is to travel to Montreal and Quebec City on Tuesday and Wednesday. The Haitian embassy said he will meet Premier Jean Charest and will visit members of the Haitian-Canadian community.

Boat captain charged in latest deadly human smuggling case in Fort Lauderdale

By CURT ANDERSON

The Associated Press

South Florida Sun Sentinel

May 2 2006

FORT LAUDERDALE -- A Bahamian boat captain was indicted Tuesday on federal charges stemming from an alleged human smuggling venture that killed at least one person, the latest in a wave of smuggling attempts off Florida's coasts that have resulted in seven known deaths.

The five-count grand jury indictment of George Bridell Rolle, 26, is intended to send a message to smugglers and their would-be customers that paying criminal organizations to bring friends and family illegally to the United States carries enormous risk, state and federal officials said.

``We see cases like this monthly," said U.S. Attorney R. Alexander Acosta. ``People die off our shores and they die too often."

The charges against Rolle were brought by an anti-smuggling task force involving state and federal agencies known as Operation Lost at Sea. The task force was created in response to a recent uptick in human smuggling incidents in South Florida that have resulted in at least seven deaths, according to federal officials.

``Some make it, some get caught and some die trying," said Broward County Sheriff Ken Jenne, adding that many migrants are simply dumped offshore and forced to wade or swim to the beach because smugglers fear getting too close.

In March, a federal judge in Miami also sought to send a message when he imposed the maximum possible 10-year sentence on two convicted human smugglers involved in a trip that resulted in the death of a 6-year-old Cuban boy. Since its creation last fall, the task force has brought federal indictments against 20 individuals, detained more than 300 illegal migrants and seized 16 smuggler boats.

The Rolle case is typical. Prosecutors say he used a 26-foot speedboat in an attempt to smuggle a group of Haitians, Jamaicans and Bahamians from the Bahamas to the United States on April 21. The boat capsized about 25 miles off the coast of Fort Lauderdale and was spotted with five people clinging to the overturned hull by a private vessel.

Later, the body of Rolnique Metayer, 35, of Haiti, was found floating in the vicinity of the capsized boat. Yves Jean, 40, of Haiti is missing and presumed dead along with a 42-year-old man from Jamaica that officials have only identified as John.

The other passengers said the men were crying out for help as they drifted away, investigators said.

``We need to let the public know that smugglers, they don't care about any human life," said Jesus Torres, special agent in charge of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement field office in Miami. ``They don't care about anything except lining their own pockets."

Federal prosecutors would not say how much Rolle was allegedly paid for this trip. But officials have said the smugglers usually get about \$8,000 to \$10,000 per person in South Florida.

Rolle is charged with five counts of alien smuggling for profit and one count of alien smuggling resulting in death. Because of that last charge, Rolle could get the death penalty, but it is more likely he would receive a sentence in the four- to eight-year range under federal sentencing guidelines.

Rolle is being held on \$250,000 bond but has not entered a formal plea to the charges. His attorney, Roberto Stanziale, declined comment because he had not taken the case permanently as of Tuesday.

US congratulates Haiti for successful elections
Caribbean Net News
AFP
Tuesday, May 2, 2006

WASHINGTON, USA: The United States applauded Haiti Monday for successfully holding a second round of parliamentary elections, the first since former president Jean Bertrand Aristide fled an uprising.

"The United States congratulates the people of Haiti, the Haiti's Provisional Electoral Council, and the Interim Government for the conclusion of successful parliamentary elections," State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said.

"With the vote completed, the United States looks forward to the sitting of a new Parliament and the inauguration of President-elect Rene Preval on May 14," he said in a statement.

"The Haitian people have clearly demonstrated their commitment to democracy through their elections."

The United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and the Organization of American States "played an important role in assisting Haiti with their elections," McCormack said.

MINUSTAH was deployed to Haiti after Aristide fled an armed rebellion two years ago.

Haitians voted in the first round on February 7 and in the second round on April 21.

Preval was declared the winner of the presidential vote after the first round. His Hope party leads the legislative election, according to partial results.

In Haiti, outgoing Prime Minister Gerard Latortue said he was "optimistic" about his impoverished country's future and "relieved" that Preval won the election.

Latortue said Preval will enjoy the full support of the international community. "It wasn't the case with me," he said, noting that the 15-nation Caribbean Community (Caricom) had refused to recognize his interim government.

"Today, everyone is ready to give Haiti a chance, while when Aristide left on February 29, 2004, Haiti was considered a rogue nation, a pariah state where nothing was possible," Latortue said.

Premier lambastes China for blocking his trip to Haiti
The China Post staff
May 1, 2006

Premier Su Tseng-chang yesterday lambasted China for blocking his Haiti trip, saying Beijing's promises to give Taiwan more diplomatic space were a "bounced check".

Su was originally scheduled to visit Haiti to attend the May 14 inauguration of President-elect Rene Preval but pressure from Beijing forced Preval to ask Taiwan to send a lower-level official, a government statement said.

"Chinese national chairman Hu Jintao's promises to give Taiwan international space have proved to be a fundamentally a bounced check in less than a month," Su said, referring to promises made by Hu to opposition Kuomintang (KMT) honorary chairman Lien Chan during an April meeting.

It was the first time for one of Taiwan's allies to directly reject a visit from a Taiwanese leader. The move also comes amid doubts that Washington will allow President Chen Shui-bian to make a transit stop on the U.S. east coast during his state tour of Latin America.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) said in a statement on Saturday night that China had "intimidated" Haiti -- an ally of Taiwan's for over half a century -- with a threat to vote against a United Nations plan to continue a peace keeping mission in the Caribbean country. Beijing is a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council and can veto the council's decision.

Bowing to pressure from Beijing, Preval asked Taiwan to send a lower level official to the inauguration, the statement said.

"China is viciously suppressing us mercilessly and irrationally," foreign affairs spokesman Michel Lu said.

MOFA officials said they would select a suitable person to replace Su but added they still had not decided who it would be.

In his message, Preval also gave his assurance that during his tenure, Haiti will maintain its diplomatic ties with Taiwan. Haiti is among 25 countries that maintain diplomatic ties with Taiwan instead of China.

Chen is leaving for Latin America this Wednesday, but the U.S. still has not responded to Taiwan's request for Chen to make a transit stopover on the U.S. east coast , officials said.

Previously Chen has been able to make stopovers in key U.S. towns during state tours.

Unnamed officials were quoted in local media as saying these setbacks were related to Chen's decision to scrap a government council devoted to managing reunification with the mainland in February, a move that angered Washington.

The U.S. side had not directly said its slowness in responding to Taiwan's request was related to the move but "particularly after a summit between Hu and President George Bush, the Taiwan-China-U.S. relationship has altered subtly," one official was quoted by local media as saying.

The officials said Taipei will still push for Chen to stopover on U.S. east coast but as the U.S. still has not given Taipei a response, the likelihood is slim.

Beijing was given the China seat at the UN in 1972 and since then Taiwan has been barred from joining the international body.

Taipei and Beijing have been bitter rivals since their split in 1949 and have long engaged in a diplomatic tug of-war, trying to woo allies away from each other with generous economic and financial aid.

The UN force in Haiti has some 6,000 blue-helmeted troops. Its international police component was boosted to 2,000 officers for the February 7 presidential and legislative elections.

The stabilization mission was deployed after president Jean Bertrand Aristide fled on February 29, 2004 as the country plunged into chaos.

With only 5,000 ill equipped officers, Haiti's police force is struggling to maintain order in the impoverished and often violent country of 8.5 million.

Taiwan says China threatened Haiti UN mission

Caribbean Net News

AFP

Monday, May 1, 2006

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AFP): Taiwan said Sunday that rival China had blocked Taiwanese Premier Su Tseng-chang's planned visit to Haiti by threatening to veto the mandate of the United Nations peacekeeping force in the Caribbean country.

Su had planned to attend the inauguration of President Rene Preval on May 14 but was forced to drop the plan over the weekend, the foreign ministry said.

"The Haitian authorities informed us that they have come under mounting pressure from Beijing after it threatened to veto the extension of the UN force's mandate in Haiti when the UN Security Council meets in August," foreign ministry spokesman Michel Lu told AFP.

"We strongly condemned Beijing. What it did has hurt not only Taiwan but Haiti," he said.

But despite the aborted visit Lu said president-elect Preval has assured Taipei that diplomatic ties between the two countries remain firm.

Haiti is among 25 countries that maintain diplomatic ties with Taiwan instead of China.

Beijing was given the China seat at the UN in 1972 and since then Taiwan has been barred from joining the international body.

Taipei and Beijing have been bitter rivals since their split in 1949 and have long engaged in a diplomatic tug-of-war, trying to woo allies away from each other with generous economic and financial aid.

The UN force in Haiti has some 6,000 blue-helmeted troops. Its international police component was boosted to 2,000 officers for the February 7 presidential and legislative elections.

The stabilization mission was deployed after president Jean Bertrand Aristide fled on February 29, 2004 as the country plunged into chaos.

With only 5,000 ill-equipped officers, Haiti's police force is struggling to maintain order in the impoverished and often violent country of 8.5 million.

USAID Announces a Scholar Initiative Program for Students from Haiti

May 2, 2006

Press Release Source: U.S. Agency for International Development

WASHINGTON -- In an effort to strengthen educational programs in Haiti, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) announced the addition of a Florida-Haiti Scholarship Program under the Cooperative Association of States for Scholarships (CASS) of Georgetown University. Through this program, students from Haiti will have the opportunity to study and attend college in Florida.

Through the CASS program, scholars foster long-lasting personal and professional links of friendship with those from among the countries of the Americas and the Caribbean. Scholars learn about life in the United States through their experiences with U.S. culture and in turn, share their culture with their new host community. They also observe governmental decision-making processes and become actively involved with community projects and volunteer organizations. Upon completion of the program, the scholars will return to Haiti to apply their newly learned skills and knowledge in their workplace and in their communities.

This year, ten scholars were selected in a highly competitive process that considers financial need, leadership potential, community involvement, and academic achievement. The first three Haitian Scholars are from Port-au- Prince and have commenced their studies in Small and Medium Enterprise Management and Marketing at Florida Community College in Jacksonville, Florida. The additional seven scholars will study Industrial Management/Electronics Technology at Hillsborough Community College in Tampa, Florida. Candidates for these scholarships come from rural areas such as Jean Rabel, Jeremie, Ounaminthe, and Jacmel. Each scholarship includes tuition costs, room & board, travel expenses, and English-language training.

To implement this Florida-Haiti Scholarship Program, USAID worked closely with the Governor's Office in the State of Florida, which has recently been coordinating a comprehensive Florida-Haiti Initiative to render assistance for development efforts within the Caribbean country. Florida is a mere 650 miles from Haiti, and according to the 2000 U.S. Census, the state has the largest Haitian population of any U.S. state.

Funded by USAID, the CASS Program offers technical education, job training, and leadership skills development to young adults and leaders from throughout Central America, the Caribbean and Mexico. Since 1989, the CASS program has provided over 500 scholarships to a new generation of young Haitians making important contributions as a result of newly acquired technical, democratic leadership and community development skills.

Despite Lead in Run-Offs, Préval's Party Likely to Face Parliamentary Obstructionism

Haiti Progres

April 26, 2006

Espwa, the electoral coalition of Haiti's President-elect René Préval, has won the most parliamentary seats of any party in the April 21 run-off elections, according to partial results issued by the Provisional Electoral Council (CEP). But, as expected, Préval's party – Hope, in English – will have to forge a political alliance to gather the parliamentary majority needed to select the Prime Minister, Haiti's most powerful executive post, and pass legislation.

But some observers predict that Espwa's rival parties – which almost universally supported the Feb. 29, 2004 coup against President Jean-Bertrand Aristide – will benefit from CEP vote rigging, working to destabilize and hamstring Préval's government.

"We foresee that there are going to be problems in the Parliament," said Emile Jean-Baptiste of SOS, a political reflection group, in an Apr. 25 interview with Radio Solidarité. "The [pro-coup sector's] plan [to steal the presidency] was foiled but nonetheless it succeeded for the Parliament."

About one million Haitians – close to 30% of Haiti's 3.5 million eligible voters – turned out to elect 30 senators and 97 deputies in Haiti's second round of national legislative elections, said David Wimhurst, the spokesman for the United Nations Mission to Stabilize Haiti (MINUSTAH) on Apr. 24. The CEP said participation was 28.31%. This was well below the 60% participation rate in the Feb. 7 first round, during which only two deputies – St. Louis Fleurimé of Serge Gille's social-democratic Fusion party and Francenet Dénus of protestant pastor Chavannes Jeune's Union party – won seats.

"Isn't a low voter turn-out precisely what they wanted?" asked Jean-Baptiste, speaking of the CEP, Washington, Paris, Ottawa, and the pro-coup parties. "It facilitates manipulation of the results... The 'international community' doesn't have a problem with low turn-out as long as it contributes to their objective: to control the parliament so that they can work on the executive."

Espwa has so far won 11 of 24 tabulated Senate races and 20 of the 41 tabulated Chamber of Deputies seats, the CEP announced Apr. 24. A majority in the Senate requires 16 seats and in the Chamber, 50 seats. Candidates from Aristide's Lavalas Family party (FL), possibly Espwa allies, have won two Senate seats and three Deputy seats. Only a handful of unauthorized Lavalas candidates ran since the FL, along with the National Popular Party (PPN), officially boycotted the de facto and occupation-run elections, calling them "selections."

Indeed, a Parliamentary "selection" may have been achieved, Jean-Baptiste observed. "I heard members of the [bourgeoisie's] 'civil society' talking, and that confirmed what we suspected," he said. "It will be a parliament where the opposition, the CEP, the Council of the Wise [which appointed the de facto government], the Group of 184 [the Washington-spawned pro-coup civil society front], and all those who were there before, who put in place this [de facto] power, will work with an attitude to create blockage... It was Mr. Rosny Desroches and Mr. Christian Rousseau that I heard talking. They said it plainly, that we will see what will happen. After we saw what happened on Feb. 7 where the population showed its desire for democracy, for peace, we think it is very, very unfortunate that people would lead us into the politics of destabilization again."

Despite the low turn-out, calm generally prevailed throughout the country during the vote. However, there were a number of cases of violence. In the northern town of Grande Saline, in the Artibonite Valley, Bertin Désir, a polling station observer for a one political party, was shot by his cousin, Ricardo Désir, an observer for a rival party. At least three other people were wounded after partisans of different candidates clashed. Due to the incidents, elections in that town were cancelled for the second time.

Also in the Artibonite, in the town of Verrettes, Jean Beauvois Dorsonne, a candidate for deputy of Youri Latortue's Party of the Artibonite in Action (LAA) went into hiding after shooting and wounding a Haitian election observer, Marc Michel, of the National Observer Council (CNO).

In Lascahobas, on the Central Plateau, Charlemagne Denaud, the candidate for deputy of the social-democratic Struggling People's Party (OPL), was threatened by partisans of Markenz Sigué, Fusion's candidate.

Meanwhile in the northern town of Savanette, voting was disrupted when one candidate's supporters stormed the polling center, threatening election officials there.

Electoral Council officials said that similar incidents occurred in the south-west Grand'Anse province, in the counties of Moron and Pestel, where armed men terrorized voters and election officials. In the southwestern town of Nippes, the president of a voting station was arrested for trying to rig the vote for a candidate.

There were also about a dozen people arrested in the northern town of Acul, near Cap Haïtien, with bundles of pre-filled out ballots.

Several election observers said that voter turn-out was very low, compared to the 60% participation of the first round.

Johan Van Hecke, the head of the European Union's election observer mission, originally underestimated voter participation at less than 15%, but later revised his estimate upwards.

Many were critical of the EU observers for refusing to criticize Haitian electoral authorities, who refused to let people vote because their names were not found on voter rolls, although they had their electoral cards .

"It is very ironic that they talk about low voter turn-out while people who wanted to vote were turned back from the polls by election authorities right under the nose of European observers," said one journalist covering the vote at "Building 2004" where the inhabitants of Cité Soleil voted, according to the Haitian Press Agency. Many voters simply went to the polling station where they voted in the February 7 first-round only to find that their names were not on the voter list there.

Electoral Council officials defended their refusal to let people who went to the wrong station vote, saying that voters had been instructed over the radio to consult the Electoral Council's Internet site and posted electoral rolls before the elections.

But Haitian voters complain that most of them have no access to the Internet and that it was impossible to find one's name in the labyrinth of lists put out by the Electoral Council. Many voters say that the Electoral Council did everything in its power to lower voter participation.

Under Haiti's constitution, the party or coalition with the most parliamentary seats gets to choose the prime minister, who acts as head of government and appoints Cabinet members and most administrative posts.

Final results are expected in about a week.

Argent, Brazil, Chile Support Haiti
Prensa Latina
April 29, 2006

Buenos Aires, Answering the request of Haiti President-elect Rene Perval, officials from Argentina, Brazil and Chile are analyzing the support of this country regarding public policy strategies, an official note released Saturday.

The meeting held at the San Martin Palace, headquarters of the Argentinean Foreign Relations Ministry, was presided over by the undersecretary in charge of Latin American Policy Leonardo Franco.

Counterparts from Brazil and Chile, Jose Martins Felicio and Carlos Portales respectively, attended the meeting as well as diplomatic and experts from the three countries.

The assistance requested is referred to public policy strategies in the context of the crisis this Caribbean nation has been going through for a long time, noted the Argentinean Foreign Ministry.

Several ministries from the three countries' agreed to give aid in four basic aspects: strengthening democratic governability, attention to social emergencies, contributing to establish a feasible economy and monitoring cooperation actions.

According to the Argentinean Foreign Ministry the process will continue on May 4 and 5 when Franco, Felicio and Portales present their proposals to President Preval in a meeting held in Port of Prince, the Haitian capital.

Congressional foot-dragging threatens Haiti's economy and U.S. interests

Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service

Editorial

The Orlando Sentinel

April 25, 2006

This is a critical time for Haiti. Its voters elected a new president in February and a new parliament last week. That president, Rene Preval, and parliament face enormous challenges in rescuing their long-suffering people from poverty and rampant violence.

The U.S. Congress can give those new leaders a fighting chance by providing duty-free access to the U.S. market for Haitian products - the kind of access that other Caribbean nations enjoy. Access for Haiti would create jobs and spur desperately needed investment. It would help Haitians help themselves.

Legislation that would provide duty-free access to the U.S. market for clothing made in Haiti has bipartisan support. Co-sponsors include Republican Mel Martinez and Democrat Bill Nelson, Florida's two U.S. senators.

But so far, trade preferences for Haiti have been blocked by U.S. industries that don't want the competition. President Bush, who has a good record for promoting free trade, needs to break the logjam by putting his clout behind measures for Haiti.

The United States has more than just a humanitarian interest in helping Haiti. With its legal economy languishing, Haiti has become a transfer point for illegal drugs bound for the United States. If its economy and security decline further, Haiti could become a breeding ground for terrorists. More than 100,000 illegal immigrants in the United States have come from Haiti, according to the Pew Hispanic Center.

Free trade makes sense both for Haiti and for the United States.

Hailing Haiti vote, Security Council says long-term challenges still need attention
UN News Centre
25 April 2006

The United Nations Security Council today welcomed the recent parliamentary elections in Haiti while stressing that the impoverished Caribbean country still faces numerous challenges requiring international help.

In a press statement, Council President Wang Guangya, the Ambassador of China, commended the Haitian people for their participation in the second round of the parliamentary elections, held on Friday, and welcomed the “calm manner” in which voting took place.

“These elections constitute clear evidence of the Haitian people’s commitment to democracy,” he said, voicing appreciation for the work of the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).

Reiterating the importance of timely municipal and local elections, the Council President stressed that security remains important for the further stabilization of the country.

“While acknowledging that elections are a major step in Haiti’s political transition, the members of the Council recognize that addressing the country’s many long-term challenges will require close cooperation between the Haitian authorities and the international community,” he said.

The UN helped organize the poll, together with February’s presidential vote, as part of its peacekeeping mission in the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

Voters cast ballots at 804 voting centres to elect 27 senators and 83 deputies, according to MINUSTAH, which said that, consistent with expectations, participation was lower than the first round of elections, when René Préval was elected president.

Time to Support Haiti

Tuesday 25 April 2006

By Michael Deibert [1]

Op-Ed submitted to AlterPresse - 23rd April 2006

On 14th May, if everything goes according to plan, Haiti will inaugurate René Garcia Prèval as its new president. Shortly thereafter, the country will install new senators and deputies for its upper and lower houses of parliament. Mr. Prèval, who served as Haiti's president from 1996 until 2001, will take over the leadership of a country courtesy of a ballot supervised by the United Nations Stabilisation Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and replace an unelected interim government that has overseen convulsing violence and economic stagnation since the flight of Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in February 2004.

MINUSTAH, lead by former Chilean Foreign Minister Juan Gabriel Valdès and consisting of 7,519 UN peacekeeping troops, 1,776 police and a staff of 1,132 civilian personnel, has been widely and often accurately criticised for its inability to impose order in Haiti's lawless capital, Port-au-Prince. The city has seen hundreds, possibly thousands, killed in waves of kidnappings, gang wars, blanket police retaliation and vigilante justice since Aristide fled amid an armed rebellion and massive street protests against his rule. But the mission, even despite the timid turnout for this month's second-round vote, must nonetheless be congratulated on pulling off in the first round a feat that even a few months before many would have thought impossible: mass participation in an electoral process now widely viewed as legitimate in a country riven by class and political hatreds.

Préval is a complex figure, not at all the Aristide puppet that many have long accused him of being nor the humble country man he sometimes likes to portray himself as. He has a massive task ahead of him: depoliticising and professionalising a police force that was intentionally infiltrated with gang members and criminal elements during Aristide's reign, reversing deforestation estimated at over ninety-eight percent and its attendant environmental catastrophes, and making a more equitable and open economic system in a country where eighty percent of the population is mired in chronic poverty. While it is true that one does not survive as long as Prèval has in Haiti's brutal political climate without having finely honed political skills, the fact that Prèval remained untouched at his home in rural Marmelade in northern Haiti as violence swept through the country in early 2004 (and Aristide loyalists were being killed, jailed or driven off) is testament to just how well-regarded he was by the people in that part of the country. The response of the broader Haitian electorate demonstrated just how much hope people have that he will help ameliorate the situation. Unlike the international community's previous intervention in Haiti when Mr. Aristide was returned to power and a military government deposed in 1994, this time it is essential that the international community stay involved in Haiti for the long haul.

Had the international community listened to some of the voices in the Haitian debate, these elections might have never occurred. The support of self-described 'progressive' forces outside of Haiti has unfortunately all-too-often fallen by the wayside in deference to short-term political goals. The descent into the facile 'saviour politics' that Mr. Aristide exploited so successfully during his political career came at the expense of a sustained and even-handed attempt to help the vast majority of decent, honest Haitians strengthen their country's institutions, create a more open and equitable economic system and reinforce a truly open, democratic political process. If progressive forces are serious about helping Haiti's eight million people, this is a dynamic which must change.

On 3rd February, four days before Haiti's presidential election, the Washington-based Council on Hemispheric Affairs (COHA), long an uncritical supporter of Mr. Aristide's government, released a statement entitled Botched Job: The UN and the Haiti Elections [2] assailing the ballot. COHA wrote that 'the elections, which are central to the Bush administration's desire to get the island off its foreign policy agenda, are unlikely to offer a way out of the current nightmare of instability, chaos and violence'. In support of this contention, they quoted the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti (IJDH), which asserted that the ballot would suffer from a 'lack of democratic legitimacy.'

The IJDH itself is a curious creature. The Miami attorney Ira Kurzban is listed as 'one of the founders of IJDH', and 'a member of the Board of Directors' in a 24th March 2005 letter [3] sent by the IJDH to Santiago A. Canton, Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the OAS. According to US Department of Justice Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) filings, [4] Kurzban's law firm received \$3,569,026 from the Aristide government of behalf of its lobbying efforts between 2001 and 2003, and he has been identified as Mr. Aristide's personal attorney in, among other places, a 16th March 2004 press release from the office of United States Representative Maxine Waters. While employed by the Aristide government, in addition to representing its interests in the United States, Mr. Kurzban was responsible for helping to fund [5] the Bureau des Avocats Internationaux (BAI) in Haiti, which included on its staff a gifted US attorney, Brian Concannon. Mr. Concannon is now the lead attorney with the IJDH and, though the organisation is ostensibly headquartered in Oregon, where Mr. Concannon resides, donations are directed to be sent to a Florida address, the region where Mr. Kurzban resides. The group's 2005 annual report [6] lists \$53,836 of contributions from undisclosed 'individual supporters'.

Mr. Concannon, in an August 2005 interview on Flashpoints Radio in the United States, repeatedly referred to the vote to which Haitians responded so magnificently in February, as a 'phony election', saying that 'ninety percent of the Haitian people want nothing to do with this election.' Echoing Concannon, Washington-based Centre for Economic and Policy Research co-director Mark Weisbrod, who is often unable to get even the basic details of Mr. Aristide's second term in office correct, wrote in *The Nation* [7] magazine last November that the vote would be a 'farce'.

In tandem with this effort to de-legitimise the vote, Haitian organisations advocating on behalf of the nation's workers and peasantry have been particular victims of a scurrilous campaign. These groups were at loggerheads with the Aristide government due to, among other offences, the brutal (and illegal) March 2002 eviction of peasant farmers from the Maribaroux Plain by government security forces to make way for a low-wage factory there, and the machete attack that same year by government partisans against a group of farm workers agitating for better conditions at a factory in the town of Guacimal. The latter attack left two dead and eleven summarily imprisoned.

When peasant activist Chavannes Jean-Baptiste, who has been organising subsistence farmers against abusive governments and working to halt Haiti's environmental degradation in the country's Plateau Central for over thirty years, was the recipient of the 2005 Goldman Environmental Prize, the IJDH denounced him on Flashpoints Radio as 'a strong organiser behind the political end of the coup which drove Haitian President Aristide from power' (The award is sponsored by the San-Francisco-based Goldman Environmental Foundation, and is the world's largest prize program honoring grassroots environmentalists). Jean-Baptiste, the leader of the Mouvman Peyizan Papay (MPP) peasant union and

the twenty-thousand member Mouvman Peyizan Nasyonal Kongre Papay (MPNKP) (both named for the village of Papay where they are based), was also the subject of a March 2006 article by Tom Reeves in Counterpunch [8] magazine which stated that 'Chavannes was mentored by Aristide since his youth'. This statement was a complete falsehood that ignored the fact that Jean-Baptiste is a full decade older than Aristide and had began organising peasants in 1973 when Aristide, a former priest, was still in seminary school. Providing no supporting evidence, Reeves goes on to write that 'according to former MPP members from Mirebalais and Thomond in the Plateau (towns many miles from Papay)...interviewed in March 2004, Chavannes welcomed (rebel leader Louis Jodel) Chamblain and even held a dinner for his band at Papay.' This allegation stands in stark contrast to a 24th February 2004 communiqué [9] in which Jean-Baptiste and the MPP pointedly, and at no small risk to themselves, said they would not aid the rebels, nor demonstrate for them, stating that 'collaboration (with the rebels) is not possible...We (the MPP) cannot make an alliance with this group just because we are both against Aristide.'

A similar smear campaign has been waged against one of Haiti's most militant and effective labour unions, Batay Ouvriye (Worker's Struggle), for receiving financial support from the liberal AFL-CIO's American Centre for International Labour. This support [10] included \$20,000 for a Workers' Centre in the town of Ouanaminthe on the Dominican border and the possibility for an additional \$50,000 to facilitate a free trade zone in Port-au-Prince. The organisation had received no money from the AFL-CIO before Aristide's February 2004 ouster. In the midst of the attacks, the New York-based Grassroots Haiti organisation bravely stated that 'the inherent weaknesses in the international left and especially in the US progressive movement (is that) solidarity too often focuses on charismatic leaders with access to state power while overlooking the struggles of actual workers and others on the ground. The international left would be in a better position to criticise if it had been providing a meaningful level of concrete support to Batay Ouvriye and other grassroots organisations over the years.' It is indeed odd to watch privileged North American activists lecturing working-class Haitians on how they are and are not allowed to attempt to better their country's lot.

My own dealings with this current of political thought following the publication of a memoir of my time in the country, Notes from the Last Testament: The Struggle for Haiti , written after having spent the better part of a decade visiting and reporting there and having seen first-hand what the Aristide government had become, were of a similar vein. In The New Left Review and on the Znet website, which has quoted the IJDH eight times over the past two years while never mentioning its connection to Aristide, a Canadian activist and occasional journalist by the name of Justin Podur, who speaks no Kreyol and the sum of whose personal experience in Haiti consisted of one month-long trip in the fall of 2005, penned a pair of juvenile personal attacks on myself and the book, producing a supposed 'smoking gun' to discredit the work. This was a statement from one Patrick Elie, denying his presence outside a church, the Eglise Saint Pierre, in the capital on 3rd December 2002 (where I addressed him by name and in English), at the beginning of what became a day of attacks against anti-Aristide demonstrators in Haiti's capital. Podur described Elie as a 'Haitian activist' as well as a 'very courageous and brilliant individual.'

A former junior cabinet minister and confidante of Mr. Aristide who has thus far wisely been excluded from involvement in Préval's re-emergence on the political scene, Mr. Elie was heretofore perhaps best known for being arrested outside of Washington, DC in April 1996 and jailed for nearly two years in the United States for, among other offences, apparently threatening the life of Prëval's ambassador to

the United States at the time, Jean Casimir. Subsequently held for falsely claiming to be a diplomat and for using a false address on a federal firearms transaction, court documents [11] from the US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit show that US diplomatic security and police inventoried from Mr. Elie's hotel room at the time a Colt .223 semi-automatic assault rifle with a round in the chamber and six magazines loaded with armour-piercing ammunition, a Remington .22 calibre bolt action rifle equipped with a telescopic sight, a loaded Steyr 9mm semi-automatic pistol with 264 9mm rounds (including 180 rounds of hollow-point ammunition), night vision equipment, two knives, approximately \$4,800 in cash, purchase receipts for three additional firearms and documents relating to the activities of Mr. Casimir. Mr. Elie's connections among Haiti's elite economic and political class saved him on that occasion, but one cannot help but to speculate as to what exactly was being planned. And one must question how Znet could put stock in the words of such a plainly unstable and unreliable individual, so obviously a thorough product of Haiti's dysfunctional political milieu. It certainly points to their operating on a far different moral compass from that of the grassroots activists I have met in Haiti over the years.

Claiming to be progressive, Znet, The New Left Review and journalists such as those mentioned above have, in fact, been doing the work of Haiti's reactionary landowners and upper-class. These forces within Haiti have been attempting for many years to marginalise peasant and worker activists from international support and thereby facilitate their continued oppression by an unfair economic system, one that Aristide and his party milked as effectively as any political leaders ever have in Haiti. At present, sectors of the international left are helping them in this task.

It is high time that some in the progressive movement give up their illusions about Haiti and set about helping the millions of brave and resilient people who are struggling daily to improve their lot there in substantive and demonstrative ways. The time for ruling class activist fantasies about Haiti is finished. The time for concrete action is at hand.

If Mr. Préval is to succeed in bettering the lives of Haiti's long-suffering people, something we all hope for, the international community, and particularly the progressive community, must openly and honestly support organizations working for progressive change and an open and free society rather than continuing their de facto support of the 'corrupt, immoral, thieving, charlatan, incompetent, bankrupt, criminal, anti-worker, pro-imperialist and reactionary' remnants of the ancient regime, as Haitian activist Mario Pierre once memorably described them.

I have written before that what is at stake in Haiti is too important to surrender the dialogue to mercenaries, opportunists and novices, and that has never been truer than it is right now.

[1] Michael Deibert is the author of Notes from the Last Testament: The Struggle for Haiti (Seven Stories Press). The views in this article are his own. His website is www.michaeldeibert.com.

[2] - "Botched Job: The UN and the Haiti Elections"
Friday, 3 February 2006, The Council on Hemispheric Affairs.

[3] - "Letter to Inter-American Commission on Human Rights,"
24 March 24 2005.

- [4] - Foreign Agents Registration Unit (FARA) Semi-Annual Reports (Haiti), 2001-2003.
- [5] - IJDH Fundraiser Invite, 1 November 2005.
- [6] - IJDH Annual Report 2005.
- [7] - "Undermining Haiti" by Mark Weisbrot, The Nation, 22 November 2005.
- [8] - "The Puzzling Alliance of Chavannes Jean-Baptiste and Charles Henri Baker: Haitian Election Aftermath," by Tom Reeves, Counterpunch, 1 March 2006.
- [9] - "MPP Speaks to the New Dimension of the Haitian Crisis," press release, 24 February 2004.
- [10] - Batay Ouvriye press release, 9 January 2006.
- [11] - "United States of America vs. Patrick Elie," United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, 28 April 1997.