

## **HAITI NEWS ROUNDUP: SEPTEMBER 30 – OCTOBER 11, 2006**

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### **US eases weapons embargo on Haiti**

**BBC News**

**October 11, 2006**

The US has announced a partial end to its arms embargo on Haiti.

The embargo was imposed in 1991 to prevent the army and gangs - both accused of human rights violations - from buying weapons from the US market.

President Rene Preval had complained it was hampering police efforts to fight criminal gangs.

Since Jean-Bertrand Aristide was ousted from power in 2004, Haiti has seen deadly clashes between rogue police officers, ex-rebels and gangs.

Hundreds of people in the capital, Port-au-Prince, have died in the violence, which surged when Haiti was being ruled by an interim government. Much of the violence is believed to be politically motivated.

A force of about 9,000 UN peacekeepers provides the only real security in the city.

'Great changes'

Haiti's government will now be allowed to apply for licences to buy arms and other equipment for the police.

Mr Preval had argued that while the gangs could buy weapons on the black market, the police force could not equip itself properly.

Correspondents say the US move is a vote of confidence in Mr Preval, a former Aristide ally who was elected earlier this year.

"The United States government has taken note of the great changes in Haiti since the imposition of this embargo, namely a peaceful and democratically-elected government," US embassy spokeswoman Shaila Manyam said.

Washington imposed the embargo when Mr Aristide was overthrown the first time. When he was returned to power in 1994, his attempts to have the ban overturned were rejected by the US.

**U.S. partially lifts arms embargo against Haiti**  
**The Associated Press**  
**International Herald Tribune**  
**October 10, 2006**

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti The United States has partially lifted a 15-year-old arms embargo against Haiti, the U.S. Embassy said Tuesday, allowing the troubled Caribbean nation to buy weapons for police battling violent — and often better armed — street gangs.

The move comes after President Rene Preval's new government openly criticized the embargo, saying it was hampering its ability to restore order and confront gangs that flourished after a February 2004 revolt toppled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

The modified embargo approved by the U.S. State Department is aimed at helping Haitian and U.N. authorities "fight against rampant criminal and gang activity," said U.S. Embassy spokeswoman Shaila B. Manyam.

It allows the government to apply for licenses to buy firearms, body armor and other items for police, Manyam said. Private groups, companies and individuals are still restricted from buying arms under the embargo.

The policy change appears to underscore Washington's vote of confidence in Preval, a soft-spoken champion of the poor who took office in May and has worked to reform the corruption-riddled police force while challenging gangsters to lay down their guns or face death.

"The United States government has taken note of the great changes in Haiti since the imposition of this embargo, namely a peaceful and democratically elected government," Manyam said.

The United States imposed the embargo in 1991 when Aristide was overthrown the first time, barring sales of weapons except "in a case of exceptional or undue hardship, or when it is otherwise in the interest of the United States government."

Aristide tried to have the ban lifted after 20,000 U.S. troops returned him to power in 1994 but was rebuffed by U.S. officials, who cited police ties to cocaine trafficking and the slaying of government opponents.

Haiti's ambassador in Washington, Raymond Joseph, called the easing of the weapons ban a "welcome decision."

"I think it will be quite helpful to Haiti's police," Joseph said, noting that the embargo was also criticized by the U.S.-backed interim government that replaced Aristide in 2004.

"We thought that it was tying Haiti's hands behind its back while the bandits had all the heavy weapons," Joseph added.

Steven Benoit, a congressman from Preval's Lespwa party, said the modified embargo would even the playing field by allowing police to purchase high-powered weapons.

"Now police can buy the M-4 and M-16 rifles they need to work," Benoit told private radio Vision2000.

Haiti's capital fell into chaos after the 2004 revolt as well-armed pro-Aristide street gangs, former rebels and rogue police clashed almost daily, killing hundreds.

Since the revolt, U.S. and U.N. officials have been working to bolster a revamped police force. Gangs have been attacking police and U.N. peacekeepers with high-powered weapons.

An 8,800-strong U.N. peacekeeping force currently provides the only really security in Haiti, which has just 4,000 police for a population of 8 million. Experts say it needs at least 10 times that many.

In an exception to the embargo last year, the United States authorized two shipments of weapons for Haiti's police but required they remain in U.S. custody and only be given to officers who were properly vetted.

## **Haiti: World Bank Approves \$1.25 Million Grant to Develop Community Programs in Cité Soleil and Bel Air**

**Press Release - World Bank**

**Oct. 3 2006**

The World Bank approved a \$1.25 million grant to support community projects and strengthen community-based organizations in Cité Soleil and Bel Air, two of the poorest and most violence-stricken slums in the Haitian capital, Port-au-Prince.

The new Post-Conflict Fund (PCF) grant, specifically seeks to help support stabilization in the slum areas by quickly providing improved access to basic services and income-generation opportunities for local residents; and strengthening local community organizations.

“This grant gives residents of Cité Soleil and Bel Air an opportunity to actively participate in the development of their own communities, the hardest hit areas in Port-au-Prince” said Caroline Anstey, World Bank Director for the Caribbean. “We hope that the projects funded by this grant will contribute to improving human security and living conditions for thousands of struggling Haitians residing in these marginalized areas” she added.

Specifically, the Port-au-Prince Area Community Driven Development Pilot Project has three key components:

1. Technical Assistance, Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening of Community Groups/Organizations, towards the planning, management and implementation of participatory community-driven development.
2. Community projects to improve severely deteriorated basic physical infrastructure, while quickly providing income-generation opportunities by rehabilitating streets and drainage canals; rehabilitating potable water supplies; helping to upgrade sanitation facilities; and developing small livelihood/income-generating activities.
3. Project Administration and Management which will finance the costs associated with project implementation, project coordination, supervision, monitoring and evaluation.

The pilot project, which can subsequently be scaled up if proved successful, targets two areas which encompass some 20 different subdivisions with a combined population of about 400,000 inhabitants, of which about 350,000 live in Cité-Soleil. It is expected that some 45,000 family members from poor families will benefit from income generation opportunities created by the project in addition to improving access to basic, socio-economic infrastructure and services. Furthermore, some 300 representatives of Community Based Organizations and local authorities will be trained in participatory and inclusive community development.

The pilot Community Driven Development Project is part of an accelerated World Bank effort to deliver services to the poorest slums of Port-au-Prince, areas hitherto largely inaccessible due to security concerns. On September 25th, a School Feeding Program financed by the World Bank's Post

Conflict Fund began distributing meals to 5,600 school children in Cité Soleil. A similar school feeding program will soon begin in Bel Air.

The World Bank currently has \$66 million in ongoing pipeline disbursements in Haiti for transport and territorial development, community driven development and disaster management. Additionally, the Bank pledged US\$61 million in new financing for the period from July 2006 to September 2007 during a donors' conference held in Haiti on July 25, 2006. The World Bank will participate in the next International Donors' meeting on Haiti due to be held in Madrid, Spain on November 30, 2006.

**Haiti could benefit from stalled trade bill, legislator says**  
**By STEVENSON JACOBS / Associated Press**  
**International Herald Tribune**  
**10/09/2006**

A stalled U.S. trade bill designed to bring thousands of apparel assembly jobs to impoverished Haiti could receive a vote in Congress by the end of the year, a U.S. legislator said Monday.

U.S. lawmakers last month delayed consideration of the HOPE bill, but U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee said there's enough bipartisan support to revive the legislation that would extend trade preferences to Haiti's crippled apparel assembly industry.

"The HOPE bill is very much still alive," Jackson-Lee, a Democrat from Houston, told reporters in Haiti's capital at the close of a four-day trade mission to the conflict-torn Caribbean nation.

The HOPE bill — or the Haitian Hemispheric Opportunity through Partnership Encouragement — would grant duty-free access to clothes made in Haiti with fabric from third-countries.

If approved, the legislation could almost immediately create up to 20,000 assembly jobs in Haiti, where a February 2004 revolt toppled former president Jean-Bertrand Aristide and threw an already dying economy deeper into ruin.

Explosive street violence in the aftermath of the revolt forced most apparel assembly factories in Port-au-Prince to shut down. Some have reopened, but others say they need U.S. trade protection to get back in business.

Supporters of the bill accused Washington lawmakers who postponed the vote of bowing to pressure from powerful U.S. textile lobbyists opposed to certain provisions, including one that would allow Haiti to use yarn and fabric from Asian competitors.

Jackson-Lee called such concerns "appropriate" but said she and colleagues believe they can "re-ignite the passage" of the HOPE bill before Congress adjourns, probably in December.

"We believe we have the support, Republicans and Democrats, that can give the HOPE bill another hearing," said Jackson-Lee.

Jackson-Lee visited Haiti as co-leader of a 52-person delegation exploring trade and investment opportunities, especially in tourism.

She said a major congressional delegation would visit Haiti in coming months as a follow-up to her trip, and said she would urge Americans to consider Haiti as a future vacation spot.

"The tourism industry is about to emerge again in Haiti," she said. "We want to be part of a new secure Haiti."

**Jackson-Lee: Haiti could benefit from stalled trade bill**

**KLTV, Texas**

**October 9, 2006**

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti A Texan in Congress today said a stalled U-S trade bill being monitored by Haiti could be voted on before year's end.

The measure could mean thousands of apparel assembly jobs for impoverished Haiti.

U-S lawmakers last month delayed consideration of the "HOPE" bill.

But Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee of Houston says there's enough bipartisan support to revive the legislation to extend trade preferences to Haiti.

The Texan spoke with reporters in Port-Au-Prince Haiti at the close of a four-day trade mission to the Caribbean nation.

The HOPE bill \_ or the Haitian Hemispheric Opportunity through Partnership Encouragement \_ would grant duty-free access to clothes made in Haiti, with fabric from third-countries.

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**Haiti's most violent ghetto goes to Warsaw's silver screens**  
**The Dominican Today**  
**October 9, 2006**

Cité Soleil featured in docudrama

WARSAW.- Representatives from 48 countries will breathe this capital's Autumnal air during a celebration of the global art of movies, as Warsaw's 22nd International Film Festival kicked off last Friday.

The event features this year main competitions are New Films, New Directors, and in International, Regional and Feature-Length Documentary, with 157 films selected from hundreds of entries and from the programs of the leading film festivals, screened in cinemas across Poland's capital.

Many of the productions' world premiere took place just weeks or even days ago, at a just concluded festival in Toronto, and earlier ones in Venice and Lugarno.

One of these, Ghosts of Cité Soleil, is competing in the Documentary category is a first feature-length production of the Danish filmmaker Asger Leth. His father Jorgen Leth -a director as well- made films in Haiti since the early 1980s and has lived there since 1991, from 1999 to 2005 as a Danish consul in Jacmel.

The movie focuses on the actual events surrounding the last months of Jean Bertrand Aristide's presidency

The story is about two brothers from Port-au-Prince, living on the edge of life in Cité Soleil, considered one of the world's poorest, roughest, and most dangerous slums. They are the leaders of the local slum gang whose fellows are known as chimères, or ghosts.

One of them wants to fight for the president, dreaming of one day joining Aristide's Lavalas party, whereas the other wants to live free, out of the political machinery and brutal reality driven by the notorious violence. Instead of being a part of strong-arm militias, helping to quell the resistance to Aristide, he opts to find his way in music, writing rap lyrics. A French relief worker is the love interest, with whom they both fall for.

Director Asger Leth and his crew had an exceptional chance to reach the heart of that Haitian ghetto and get to know gang culture in the months leading up to Aristide's forced ouster in February 2004.

Last Tuesday the situation took unexpected turn as heavily armed policemen entered the slum, shaking hands and chatting with inhabitants in a gesture of friendship expected to reduce a hatred of locals against the authorities. Cité Soleil, is currently a stronghold of supporters of president Rene Preval's predecessor which in recent years had become a lawless, no-man's land for anyone but the gang members, who the government has yet to persuade to lay down their arms.

World famous Haitian-born rapper and reggae singer Wyclef Jean also stars as himself in the movie.

Author:

Martin Wesoly

## **Use of masks on Haitians raises protocol questions**

**By Daphne Duret**

**Palm Beach Post Staff Writer**

**Saturday, October 07, 2006**

America smelled like cut grass, lingering exhaust fumes and the faint aroma of a home-cooked breakfast near the intersection of Manatee Cove and Horseshoe Point roads.

Each Haitian man had inhaled and exhaled the scent a thousand times that morning, their first breaths in America between the moment Bahamian smugglers let them off the boat just south of Stuart and the time they were caught and began their journey to the end of freedom.

Haitian men captured in September after coming ashore in Martin County were made to wear masks by the sheriff's office.

Authorities rounded them up early Sept. 15, some of them just minutes after they came ashore.

Ten of them sat at the intersection in the Rocky Point neighborhood around 9 a.m. as they waited to board the Martin County Sheriff's Office van.

The handcuffs encasing their wrists let them know that as much as they wanted to be here, America would not be their land. The masks covering their noses and mouths let them know that even the air, America's air, was not theirs.

"I said, 'They're treating them like animals,' " Faye Robertson of Lake Worth said when she saw images of the men in the newspaper the next day. "I was so appalled. I said, 'This is racism.' "

Deputies said they put masks on the men to keep themselves and the general public from catching airborne diseases such as tuberculosis, which are more prevalent in developing countries. The sheriff's office since has said it plans to require that deputies use the same measures with illegal immigrants from all nations, not just Haiti.

Martin County sheriff's Capt. Robert Pryor said the measure is not about who the people are or the color of their skin. Pryor said it has much more to do with safety, insurance liability and the potential of workers compensation claims for deputies who may become infected on the job if they don't take the proper safeguards.

"It's not a case of 'I don't like you or I don't like where you come from, let me put a mask on you.' It is a fact that some of these countries don't have as good a health-care system in their countries as we do in our country," he said. "They (immigrants) don't have money for health care. Most of them spent all the money they had just trying to get here."

World Health Organization studies show Haiti ranks high among Caribbean nations in infection rates for tuberculosis, an infectious and deadly but sometimes asymptomatic respiratory illness that affects millions worldwide.

The rates are especially high in developing nations like Haiti, but public health officials in recent years have become alarmed by a rising number of cases in the developed world, including deadly drug-resistant strains of the illness in parts of Europe.

Cheryl Little, executive director of the Miami-based Florida Immigration Advocacy Center, has represented the rights of Haitian immigrants in South Florida for years.

She understands the statistics and the department's desire to take precautions, but was shocked by the images of the Haitians in masks.

"I don't recall ever seeing anything like that," she said. "If I were one of those men sitting there, I would have felt terribly ashamed, embarrassed and just humiliated."

Martin County is not alone in using masks. St. Lucie County Sheriff Ken Mascara said his deputies use masks on themselves when they process immigrants, for the same reasons Martin County does.

Although deputies receive training on how airborne and blood-borne illnesses are transmitted, the practice of wearing gloves, masks and other special equipment when dealing specifically with Caribbean immigrant populations is not written into department policies.

Pryor said Martin County puts masks on the detainees because masking themselves would hurt their ability to communicate with the detainees and one another.

In Palm Beach and Broward counties, sheriff's offices give deputies protective equipment but leave it up to each deputy to decide when, where, and on whom to use it.

The Coast Guard has a list of safety protocols it uses when officers intercept immigrants from coastal waters, but officials said officers adapt the protocols to each situation. The Coast Guard uses masks only when someone exhibits symptoms of an illness or there are other reasons to believe one or more migrants has a contagious disease.

Marlene Bastien, a Haitian-American and director of the Haitian Women of Miami, said she has seen masks used on Haitian migrants a handful of times. Almost all of these cases constituted gross discrimination, she said, part of a lingering cultural perception that grouped Haitians with homosexuals and hemophiliacs as high-risk groups for HIV and AIDS in the early 1980s.

Bastien, Little and others asked why Martin deputies put masks on the Haitian men on Sept. 15 while the Bahamian smuggling suspects, Andrew Gates and Alvio Penn, were unmasked when they were captured a short while later.

The answer for Pryor is simple: Martin County sheriff's deputies caught the Haitian men, and the U.S. Office of Immigration and Customs Enforcement caught the Bahamians. If his department had captured the Bahamians, he said, they would have worn masks, too.

That day, 17 men, four women and three children from Haiti were captured after the boat came ashore. Some had made it as far south as Fort Lauderdale. They remain at a detention center awaiting a likely deportation.

On Sept. 21, a federal grand jury indicted smuggling suspects Gates and Penn on charges of bringing in and harboring aliens.

On Friday, a single folded white mask full of sand and dirt lay on the sidewalk near the intersection of Horseshoe Point and Manatee Cove roads, the only physical reminder that the Haitians were there.

"I think the message was very clear," Little said. "And it wasn't a message of welcome."

**Caricom and Haiti: The raising of the Caribbean's 'Iron Curtain'**  
**Sunday | October 8, 2006**  
**Myrtha Desulme, Contributor**  
**The Jamaica Gleaner**

A Haitian boy stands at the Croix de Bouquets Orphanage in Port-au-Prince, Haiti September 5, 2006, where more than 60 children receive care. - Reuters

CARICOM'S total population is about 14 million, 60 per cent of which are Haitian, making the most-spoken language in CARICOM not English, not even French, but Haitian Creole, the language of the majority.

OK, no need to panic! Just a little shock therapy to see whether you were paying attention! CARICOM being a monolingual organisation, (quite a rare phenomenon in the world of international institutions), has already declared that English will remain the official language of the community, though it has conceded that efforts should be made to deepen the use of French in the region.

A great number of Haitians speak English, either because they have studied in American universities, or have at some point lived in the U.S. Be that as it may, the hard opening facts above are nevertheless the prism through which some Haitians view CARICOM.

The integration of Haiti into CARICOM remains the biggest challenge, which the community has yet to face, owing to the social, linguistic, judicial, political, and economic obstacles to be overcome. How will we reconcile Haiti's judicial system, which is based on the French Napoleonic Code, with the Caribbean Court of Justice's English common law regime? Owing to IMF dictates, Haiti has the lowest tariffs in the region. The question of tariff harmonisation will also have to be resolved if Haiti is to join CARICOM's Common External Tariff. Many quandaries still remain to be sorted out. If this integration is achieved, however, it will be CARICOM's most rewarding milestone, and a great triumph for the hemisphere as a whole.

### THREE-FOLD PATTERN OF DIVISION

The Caribbean has inherited a three-fold pattern of division from its former colonisers:

The traditional enmity, which existed between France, Spain and Britain.

A "divide and conquer" policy which the European powers used to maintain control.

The systematic isolation of Haiti, as the country which won its Independence on terms that the metropolis considered unthinkable and unacceptable, (the seizure of the State, and the banishment of the French).

There is a great movement afoot to undo these centuries of division and the isolation of Haiti, the "sacrificial lamb" - the country which paid such an exorbitant price for pioneering, through the sacrifice of blood and fire, the cycle of emancipation and decolonisation in the Western Hemisphere. Haiti was granted provisional membership in CARICOM in 1997, and became a full member in 2002.

After a 28-month suspension, owing to the unconstitutional ouster of President Aristide, and the imposition of a puppet interim regime by the U.S., CARICOM has welcomed Haiti back into its fold in response to the return of democratic rule, after the election of René Prével in February.

Although present trade with CARICOM is only 1 per cent of Haiti's total trade with the rest of the world, it is likely that it will rise in the median to long-term, owing to better access to trade information and harmonisation of rules and standards, which will help to open business horizons and opportunities.

## MARKET

Haiti is a virgin market, which needs everything. Its nine million people represent a vast market for goods and services. The Haitian import market is more than US\$3 billion per year. There is a tremendous amount of business to be done, and CARICOM cannot only foster Haiti's development, but also benefit from the expanding networks. Mobile telecommunications giant Digicel, which is operating in 20 Caribbean countries, has found Haiti to be its most profitable market. International propaganda notwithstanding, those in-the-know know that the Haitian people are a great nation - resilient, hard-working, honest and resourceful - who have boosted the economies of The Bahamas, Turks & Caicos Islands, Dominica, the U.S.A., Canada and France. Haiti's labour force benefits from a structural youthfulness, as 40 per cent are under 15 years old, 55 per cent are under 65, and only 5 per cent are over 65.

CARICOM members will open banks and businesses in Haiti. Competition of more firms opening businesses will help to make Haitian firms more efficient and create employment. A wider variety of goods and services will become available at better prices to the Haitian consumer. Direct foreign investment and private and sovereign loans are bound to increase with integration, and stimulate the economy.

Membership in a large economic bloc will strengthen Haiti's in international negotiations with institutions such as WTO, FTAA, etc. The Regional Negotiating Machinery of CARICOM can be an appropriate instrument for strengthening Haiti's bargaining position in trade negotiations, and giving it a more effective voice in international fora. Existing free-trade agreements between CARICOM and other countries will automatically benefit Haiti.

Some trade gains can accrue immediately in areas where Haiti already has a competitive advantage, such as arts and craft. Haiti's art is widely appreciated and acknowledged as being incontestably the most original of all Afro-Caribbean cultural manifestations. Haiti has a cultural identity which distinguishes it from other CARICOM countries. There can be no doubt that British imperial rule has more profoundly shaped the nations under it than the French system was able to do in Haiti, falling short of about 160 years of British influence.

During the last CARICOM Conference, the Heads of Government meeting in St Kitts pointed to Haiti's cultural usefulness in terms of Caribbean integration, in the following statement:

"It is necessary to point out that Haiti has a great contribution to make to Caribbean life in terms of culture, and to the development of a Caribbean identity."

CARICOM leaders have paid many wonderful tributes to Haiti's historical significance and cultural richness, and have often expressed their eagerness to assist Haiti, and embrace her into the Caribbean family; but they have systematically failed to give any tangible demonstration of this goodwill to the Refugees, who have collapsed on their doorsteps, in search of protection and assistance.

## INTRODUCING HAITI

Haiti is Africa in the Caribbean. She is actually the eldest daughter of France and Africa. Haiti is: roosters crowing at dawn, coffee plucked wild from mountainsides, red sunsets plunging behind majestic mountain peaks, headlong valleys, bright and exotic flowers, vast ruins of a glorious past, the call of the conch, drums and burning cane fields in the night, rum from ancient iron kettles, proud peasants, sparkling seas, dainty gingerbread houses, exquisite French Creole cuisine, romance from the catch of a meringue, the swirl of white-robed priestesses dancing for the gods of Africa, a French taste for luxury and refinement, an explosion of art, colour and music.

Embracing Haiti means that the Caribbean would have come full circle, and matured to the point where it is now ready to return to its roots. This does not mean regression as some might think. It does not mean that we do not also embrace all of the other ethnic and cultural influences which form an integral part of who we are, making us "Out of Many, One People". It just means that we embrace and honour our full identity in all of its multifaceted and multicultural diversity, so that the Caribbean can take its place within the family of nations, not as dependencies, but as a strong unit, confident in its unique identity, "walking with heads erect, proud owners of a New World, admitting no inequality, feeling no inferiority, only a great humility and wonder, for the Destiny that shall be theirs." (H.D. Carberry)

Myrtha Dsulmis President of the Haiti-Jamaica Society.

## **Daily Challenges of Cuban Doctors in Haiti**

**By MARIA JULIA MAYORAL**

**Periodico 26, Las Tunas, Cuba**

**October 8, 2006**

GONAIVES, Haiti.— Immersed in its daily routine, the city has erased almost all traces of the severe floods that struck two years ago killing thousands of its inhabitants, destroying buildings and blocking roads. Now it is back to "normality," in the poorest country of the western hemisphere.

Nevertheless, neither the people that live in Gonaives, the capital of the department of Artibonite, nor the Cuban health workers who were there during the tragedy, forget the difficult moments shared. Both are also aware of the benefits that a relationship underscored by goodwill continues to provide.

While an important part of the Cuban medical brigade is based in the departmental capital, it provides healthcare services in virtually the entire province of Artibonite.

There are Cuban healthcare workers at the hospital units of Ennery, Dessalines, and San Marcos and in the healthcare centers or dispensaries of Marmelade, San Michel, Anse Rouge, Terre Neuve, L' Estere, Petite-Riviere de L' Artibonite, Verrettes and Grande Saline, among other zones.

For brigade members it is a matter of pride having been the ones who started the Operation Miracle eye surgery program in Haiti.

At La Providencia Hospital they worked very hard to prepare the ophthalmology area, and install the new high-tech equipment. They began doing eye surgeries on August 8, benefiting a large number of low-income persons, who for the first time ever have access to healthcare services thanks to the fact that it is offered free of charge.

Despite the heavy work load at the healthcare centers and house calls, in Artibonite, as in the rest of Haiti, the Cubans find time for the development of their professional training. In this department 95 percent of the Cuban health care workers are studying, says Rafael Rodriguez Treto, who heads the Brigade.

Treto, who is a specialist in gynecology and obstetrics, said the doctors are participating in different Masters Programs and medical research projects, centered in the different types of pathologies existing among the Haitian population.

### **FLAGSHIP**

The work of the Cuban physicians in Gonaives during the severe flooding of 2004 and the hospital at Roboteau, continues to be the "flagship" of the Cuban cooperation. There, all the medical services — surgery, pediatrics, anesthesiology, gynecology, orthopedics— are in the hands of the brigade.

Although the installation was remodeled and equipped with the participation of the Cuban doctors, technicians, and nurses, the demands on them are extremely high because the hospital has only 19 beds

and many patients, including small children that are brought in to the facility when they are in critical condition.

Before leaving for Haiti, Maria del Carmen Valdes, from the province of Pinar del Rio, was the head of the intensive care unit of the Epifanio Roa Clinic of the San Luis municipality. She is a specialist in internal medicine with 32 years of experience, 16 of which she has devoted to intensive care. She noted that the Roboteau facility lacks optimum conditions to care for gravely ill patients, and that "constantly puts to a test the skills we have learned along these years saving lives."

There are no days without tensions and some of them are "a real headache," explain the doctors. I could barely speak with Drs. Sotolongo and Augusto, two orthopedics specialists. I remember their tired faces and the brief welcome salute that they gave us from a distance. Dressed in the operating room garb, they were taking a few short minutes break before returning to surgery.

They had began working early in the morning, and in the early hours of the afternoon still had several operations to do that could not be delayed.

The Cubans began a new service in recent days in Roboteau, natural and traditional medicine.

Nurse Maximo Garcia and physician Walfrido Roque are in charge of that service and the demand it has garnered is surprising. They said they are nearly always met with a long waiting line, above all the senior citizens, who have learned about the benefits of exercise, acupuncture and other treatments that don't make use of pharmaceuticals.

Right next to the area of the doctors' offices is the area devoted to physical therapy, and one can see several instruments made by the Cuban cooperation team. If it were not for these innovations the rehabilitation services could not have started there.

According to Maxime, the herbal therapy is also winning followers. "Before we began the service, we presented the different types of medicinal teas, and explained their healing properties, in a mutual learning process, because the patients have started to bring in medicinal plants that are plentiful in the places were they live. Thanks to this we are enriching the coverage of our treatments."

## MARMELADE

For the last seven years the municipality of Marmelade has had the continuous service of members of the Cuban medical brigade with doctors coming on a rotating basis. Located in the northern mountains of Artibonite, it was one of the first zones to receive the Cubans. Today its health post is attended by Dr. Luis Gomez Baez, who has been there for a little over two months, and Elba Avila, a nurse who arrived in the zone in November 2004.

One of Elba's projects was the forming of an elderly club that meets each Wednesday and Friday for morning exercises. The Cubans have also established a relationship with the midwives who are receiving additional knowledge from the Cuban professionals to improve their assistance to pregnant women.

The people of Marmelade have grown accustomed to the Cubans in our country, said local residents like Martha Preval, a relative of the current Haitian President Rene Preval.

“Without them many people would have died. We are in a mountainous area far from the hospitals and the health post doesn’t have an ambulance. If it is necessary to transport a patient it must be done in police vehicles or private cars, but sometimes the people don’t have money to buy the necessary gasoline.”

**Author speaks about strife in Haiti at SUNY  
Reading program focused on book  
By Alice Hunt  
Poughkeepsie Journal  
Saturday, October 7, 2006**

NEW PALTZ — The town and gown joined to celebrate the written word when "The Dew Breaker" author Edwidge Danticat spoke at the State University of New York at New Paltz.

The novel was this year's "One Book, One New Paltz" selection. The program encourages members of a community to read the same book and discuss it on a large scale. Founded last year, the program is also an opportunity to foster closer connections between the community and university.

Danticat said Thursday it was wonderful to see programs explaining the sociology and history of her native country, Haiti.

"Often, when I come to a community like New Paltz, I have the burden of explaining everything," she said.

Danticat said this was the first time she's heard "The Dew Breaker" being read by a whole town.

The book is a collection of nine stories about people interconnected by their relationship to the dew breaker, a cruel torturer in Haiti.

Studley Theater was filled to the rafters quite literally as students, professors and local residents filled most of the seats, even on the balcony.

"When they heard we had to limit the number of students, they were devastated," program Coordinator Rachel Rigolino said.

The book had been selected as the first-year composition courses required summer reading, too.

The idea for her book came from meetings with activists who had been brutalized while establishing changes in Haiti, Danticat said.

The book, she said, is the story of the tortured and the torturers, but is not an explanation or resolution of Haiti's strife.

"It's emotional because some of the questions it addresses are not answered," Danticat said.

SUNY New Paltz junior Marchelly Jodesty said it was good to see someone who has overcome the tribulations of immigration. Like Danticat, Jodesty's parents emigrated from Haiti.

"A lot of people are surprised to see what they can do, adjust to a new world easily as they do and do good things. People find that amazing," Jodesty said of Haitian immigrants.

Programs on the book and Haiti will continue through the weekend. Events include a film screening and discussion, resident-led discussion groups and Unity in Diversity Day today at Hasbrouck Park.

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## **Haiti police make goodwill visit to slum**

**By STEVENSON JACOBS**

**ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER**

**Seattle Post Intelligencer**

**October 3, 2006**

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti -- Police entered Haiti's worst slum for the first time in nearly three years on Tuesday, strolling past bullet-scarred buildings and shaking hands with onlookers in a goodwill visit aimed at restoring order in the gang-controlled area.

The hour-long tour of Cite Soleil was the latest sign of easing tension between President Rene Preval's new government and gang members blamed for a wave of violence that threatens to destabilize the impoverished Caribbean nation.

Hundreds of people cheered as dozens of heavily armed police walked through the lawless slum, not far from the bullet-riddled shell of the area's old police station - destroyed during a February 2004 revolt that toppled former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Smiling and waving, the police chatted with residents and visited a U.N. military base that has served as the slum's only authority since the revolt.

"The people of Cite Soleil have been waiting a long time for police to have a presence in the community. It's a very happy day," police inspector general Jean Saint-Fleur said as U.N. troops atop armored cars kept guard, their rifles trained down dirt alleys.

Saint-Fleur called the police visit "the first steps" at reopening a base in Cite Soleil but declined to say when that would happen.

Many Haitians said they couldn't remember the last time they saw police inside the staunchly pro-Aristide slum, a warren of scrap metal shacks where clashes between militants and U.N. troops are common.

Haitian police were accused of summary executions and arbitrary arrests of pro-Aristide slum dwellers during the 2004-2006 rule of a U.S.-backed interim government.

"We welcome the police back. Maybe now we'll have peace in Cite Soleil," said Gillen Jean, a 26-year-old fruit vendor.

Only a few months ago, the visit would have provoked a clash with area gang leaders accused in scores of kidnappings and killings since the revolt. In May, two policemen were shot to death and their bodies burned after chasing a suspect into the slum's outskirts.

The government recently began negotiating with gang members in Cite Soleil to persuade them to lay down their arms and dozens have so far agreed. The talks came after Preval warned gangsters in August to disarm or face death.

Jean Yves Laguerre, a Cite Soleil community leader, said the visit should improve life in the area.

"Now the police and the people can work together, and those of us who want to leave Cite Soleil can," Laguerre said, describing the slum as "a prison."

**Discrediting the Lancet Study on Haiti**  
**A lesson in acquiring the attention and respect of the corporate media**  
**by Joe Emersberger**  
**ZNet**  
**October 02, 2006**

Some of the best work from Medialens reveals how the corporate press shields the powerful from their most formidable critics. High level UN administrators Hans Von Sponeck and Denis Halliday; former chief UN weapons inspector Scott Ritter; leading epidemiologist Les Roberts were all ignored even as Medialens readers flooded the BBC, UK Guardian, and the London Independent with emails asking why. [1]

Prominent dissidents such as Noam Chomsky and Nobel Laureate Harold Pinter fared even worse. The more impressive their achievements the easier they are to trash. The Guardian's hatchet job on Chomsky by Emma Brockes is an extreme example. It was so clumsily done that it generated a huge backlash and, eventually, a retraction.[2]

How then, did an obscure, left leaning author from the UK obtain instant access to the corporate press from which to attack a human rights study about Haiti published by the prestigious UK medical journal, The Lancet? [3] Days after the study's publication, the AP, Toronto Globe and Mail, and the UK Guardian were all uncritically quoting Charles Arthur. To slightly rephrase a question the David Peterson pursued on his blog: Who is this guy? What does he have that Chomsky, Ritter, Halliday and others didn't have? Why were his arguments and motives not scrutinized by the journalists who handed him a megaphone?[4]

Here is a hint. The study he wanted to discredit did not exactly flatter the powerful.

An unelected regime backed primarily by the US, France and Canada - though they had plenty of accomplices - had ruled Haiti since February 29 , 2004 when President Jean Bertrand Aristide was overthrown, until May of 2006. The study found that 8000 murders, and 35,000 rapes had taken place under the interim regime. About 4000 of those murders were found to be politically motivated and committed by the government security forces and its partisans. The survey did not detect killings by Lavalas (pro- Aristide) partisans or MINUSTAH (UN forces). Arthur's objections were that Athena Kolbe, the co-author, had volunteered at an orphanage founded by Aristide, had written articles he viewed as sympathetic to Aristide under the name Lyn Duff, and that the study seemed to "exonerate" Lavalas supporters.[5]

Charles Arthur smelled a rat. Athena Kolbe would soon receive a dead rat in the mail. Nameless callers phoned from the UK to threaten her and her family members with death and a package wrapped to look like a bomb was mailed to her co-author, social work professor Royce Hutson. The packages and threats promoted an investigation by the local bomb squad, the US postal inspectors, the Detroit City Police Department and the FBI. Which would the corporate press pay attention to; the human rights study which promoted such a swift and vicious response or Arthur's suspicions about the Lancet being duped into spreading Lavalas propaganda? As of writing this, not a single corporate outlet has reported

on the backlash against the Lancet human rights investigators, despite being fully informed during interviews of the events which had taken place.

Instead, the media's emphasis was on Arthur's suspicions about Kolbe, but interest in her was selective. It is worth remembering that in the US, where Kolbe and Hutson live, people like Haitian death squad leader Emmanuel Constant have found safe haven. It is not only in Haiti are they shielded from accountability. [6]

Rather than parrot Charles Arthur's objections to the study, journalists could have explored an important question: Are the findings of the Kolbe/Hutson study credible?

It is not difficult to find human rights reports that suggest they were, but reports by Harvard Law School, the Miami University of Law, Amnesty International, the National Lawyers Guild, and the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti (IJDH) were ignored by the corporate press.[7] Instead the AP, Guardian and the Globe and Mail offered us Charles Arthur and his suspicions.

Had reporters asked Arthur, as I did, if he disputed that the unelected government and its allies committed most of the political killings they would have found him revealingly evasive: "I don't have an answer to this because I have not carried out a survey." [8]

Journalists should have wondered why Arthur was completely untroubled by the fact that killings by MINUSTAH were not detected in the study. MINUSTAH has certainly killed innocent people in Haiti. The July 6, 2005 massacre in Cite Soleil was so well documented (captured on film by journalist Kevin Pina) that MINUSTAH was compelled to issue a statement saying it "...deeply regrets any injuries or loss of life during its operation." Up to 23 civilians, including children, were killed in that raid. [9]

Massacres by MINUSTAH were also reported by Canadian freelance journalist Isabel MacDonald and, significantly, Athena Kolbe - writing then as Lyn Duff. [10] Had Kolbe decided to exonerate MINUSTAH of their most serious crimes after having documented them as a journalist? Put aside how she would have put this past her co-author and the Lancet reviewers. The much more reasonable explanation is the one Kolbe gave: no one had been exonerated. Killings by MINUSTAH were not committed on a large enough scale to be picked up in the survey. But this undermines the charge that Kolbe's political sympathies skewed the results. It was therefore ignored by both Arthur and the press.

The press would not reveal that Charles Arthur's Haiti Support Group is part of a larger network of NGOs that facilitated the coup of 2004. This network includes Christian Aid and Batay Ouvriye, a leftist anti-Lavalas group often featured on Arthur's website. [11] The U.S. and Canadian governments generously funded many of these groups. In 2000 the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) drastically increased its funding of left leaning opponents of Lavalas. Among them were Rights and Democracy, Alternatives, Oxfam Quebec and various human rights groups in Haiti - including the National Coalition for Haitian Rights, NCHR (now RNDDH) which received \$100,000 from CIDA in 2004. [12] RNDDH became notorious for the way it ignored repression of Lavalas supporters after the coup. The Lancet study highlighted the human cost of their silence, but also the cost of the corporate media's silence. That explains why Charles Arthur would gain such prompt and uncritical attention.

Consider the Toronto Globe and Mail. Weeks before the coup, Globe columnist and foreign editor Paul Knox put out several reports from Haiti that depicted Aristide's opponents - sweatshop owners Charles Baker and Andy Apaid - as frustrated democrats. Knox created the impression that Aristide had minimal popular support. The huge demonstrations that had taken place in support of Aristide were completely ignored. By the time the coup took place Knox would express disillusionment with the "peaceful" opponents he had coddled but he would never retract the aspersions he cast on Aristide's legitimacy. Despite the length of his reports he would never clarify the relevant history that would have allowed his readers to understand what was going on. [13]

Aristide was overthrown for the first time in 1991, months after becoming Haiti's first president in Haiti's first democratic election. That coup left thousands of Haitians dead, drove tens of thousands into hiding, and left untold numbers raped, tortured and traumatized. In 1994, the U.S. ordered the junta to step down after outrageous concessions were secured from Aristide. The US insisted that Aristide serve out only what was left of his term and that the coup's perpetrators be shielded from accountability. The US still refuses to deport Emmanuel Constant, leader of the FRAPH deaths squads that terrorized Haitians following the coup.

Aristide was re-elected in 2000. A minor dispute over the legislative elections of that year became a pretext for a devastating aid embargo. In 2002 US commissioned polls showed Aristide remained by far Haiti's most popular politician. Early in 2004, while various governments and NGOs lashed out at Aristide, armed rebels made their move. One rebel leader was Jodel Chamblain - second in command of FRAPH - whose exploits during the 1990's, including overseeing mass rapes and murders, were well documented. Chamblain's rebels freed criminals from jail including General Prosper Avril who served the Duvalier dictatorships. The 2004 coup was led by the same cast of characters who had perpetrated the first - Haiti's tiny elite and their armed servants. No one remotely familiar with Haiti needed a crystal ball to see what was coming for Lavalas supporters.

Familiarity with this history would have helped readers assess the credibility of Lancet study. The strength of Lavalas has always been its popular support - which has been shown in every election since 1990. Their opponents, on the other hand, have shot their way into power twice since 1990. It is clear who has the fire power, and the need, to engage in much larger scale violence - an observation the press is unable or unwilling to make.

Shortly after Aristide's ouster, commentaries by Paul Knox disappeared from the pages of the Globe, but he continued to work as foreign editor. In January of 2005, the Globe rejected a report by Yves Engler on Canada's role in Haiti. Knox told Engler his report could not be used "as it has a lot of commentary and opinion woven through it." [14]

Engler would ask about a Marina Jimenez article that appeared in the Globe at about the same time "Is there no 'commentary' in a story that focuses on a brave Canadian police officer who only wants to help Haitians?" The Globe had no issue with that type of commentary or with statements that were contradicted by overwhelming evidence. Jimenez would write on February 11, 2006 that "...by the time Mr. Aristide left office, he was largely discredited." [15]

The Globe and Mail is far from being the only newspaper that should be made to answer for its coverage of Haiti. A pundit at another Canadian newspaper has stated to me in private correspondence that Haiti has been rejected as a topic for debate.

Don't expect the corporate press to ask "Where are the other peer-reviewed studies?" According to Dr. Les Roberts of John Hopkins University, total expenditures for his mortality study in Iraq were \$40,000 - far more than what the Kolbe/Hutson study cost; and not even round off error in the \$200 million that the Canadian government provided the Latortue regime. Don't expect the press to ask why studies haven't been done by the pro-coup NGOs flush with US and Canadian government cash. Expect the corporate media to welcome anyone who can help them obscure their complicity with the worst human rights disaster in the Western Hemisphere.

## NOTES

- [1] Medialens alert: "Burying Genocide - The UN 'Oil For Food' Programme";  
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Medialens Alert "No Mea Culpa From The British Media - Part 1"; Sept 2, 2004;  
[http://www.medialens.org/alerts/04/040902\\_No\\_Mea\\_Culpa.HTM](http://www.medialens.org/alerts/04/040902_No_Mea_Culpa.HTM)
- [2] Medialens Alert, "Brilliant Fools: Harold Pinter, John Le Carré And The Media" , Dec 19, 2005;  
[http://www.medialens.org/alerts/05/051219\\_brilliant\\_fools.php](http://www.medialens.org/alerts/05/051219_brilliant_fools.php)  
Medialens Alert: "Smearing Chomsky - The Guardian in the Gutter", Nov 4, 2005;  
[http://www.medialens.org/alerts/05/051104\\_smearing\\_chomsky\\_the\\_guardian.php](http://www.medialens.org/alerts/05/051104_smearing_chomsky_the_guardian.php)
- [3] Athena R. Kolbe and Royce A. Hutson, "Human rights abuse and other criminal violations in Port-au-Prince, Haiti: a random survey of households," The Lancet, Vol. 368, No. 9538, September 2, 2006,
- [4] David Peterson <http://blog.zmag.org/node/2744>
- [5] Arthur would broadcast his objections on UK Indymedia and include information on churches that Ms. Kolbe and her parents attend
- [6] For more details see Znet: Sprague Emersberger: You Are a Dog. You Should Die!  
Death Threats Against Lancet's Haiti Human Rights Investigator:  
<http://www.zmag.org/content/showarticle.cfm?ItemID=10940>
- [7] Thomas M. Griffin, UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI SCHOOL OF LAW: HAITI HUMAN RIGHTS INVESTIGATION: NOVEMBER 11-21, 2004 <http://www.law.miami.edu/news/368.html>  
Harvard Law School; "Keeping the Peace in Haiti?"; March 2005:  
[http://www.margueritelarent.com/campaigns/campaignone/human\\_rights\\_reports/harvard.html](http://www.margueritelarent.com/campaigns/campaignone/human_rights_reports/harvard.html)  
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National Lawyers Guild, Summary Report of Haiti Human Rights Delegation—March 29 to April 5, 2004 ; [http://www.nlg.org/programs/international/Haiti\\_delegation\\_report1.pdf](http://www.nlg.org/programs/international/Haiti_delegation_report1.pdf)  
For IJDH human rights reports see <http://www.ijdh.org/reports.htm>
- [8] See full exchange at  
<http://www.haitiforever.com/forum/viewtopic.php?t=6678&sid=65450d58f71114b1b449b3975f55c10d>
- [9] Independent: Buncombe: Peacekeepers accused after killings in Haiti :July 29, 2005  
<http://news.independent.co.uk/world/americas/article302259.ece>

[10] Znet: Isabel MacDonald: MINUSTAH in Cite Soleil:

<http://www.zmag.org/content/showarticle.cfm?SectionID=55&ItemID=9245>

Lyn Duff: Bloody U.N. siege on Cité Soleil; [http://www.williambowles.info/haiti-news/2005/soleil\\_siege.html](http://www.williambowles.info/haiti-news/2005/soleil_siege.html)

[11] Helen Spraos has produced apologetics for the coup on behalf of Christian Aid. See

<http://www.medialens.org/forum/viewtopic.php?t=619&highlight=helen+spraos>

Christian Aid, a donor to Arthur's Haiti Support Group, is partially funded by CIDA through the Jeannot Succes Binational Human Rights Network.

The AFL-CIO's Solidarity Center, through two grants from the U.S. Department of State and the NED, has a \$450,000 dollar program working specifically with Batay Ouvriye. Jeb Sprague has tape recorded a Solidarity Center official confirming this. Batay Ouvriye's hysterical denunciations of Lavalas - 2 months before the coup - can be read at

<http://www.batayouvriye.org/English/Positions1/decsituation.html>

[12] See Yves Engler and Anthony Fenton "Canada in Haiti: Waging War on the Poor Majority" Chapter 3 for much more detail.

[13] My email exchanges with Paul Knox at the time can be read at <http://www.en-camino.org/?p=5>

[14] Yves Engler, Haiti Lies, January 29, 2005

<http://www.zmag.org/content/showarticle.cfm?SectionID=55&ItemID=7130>

[15] Globe & Mail: Marina Jimenez: Haiti's endangered elite, February 11, 2006

**IAMCO helping children in Haiti**  
**The Cay Compass, Cayman Islands**  
**Monday 2nd October, 2006**

The statistics are horrifying – the United Nations estimates that 300 million children are chronically hungry. Of these, 170 million of attend school hungry and 130 million, mostly girls, do not attend school at all.

Research has shown that even a basic education can help to lift people out of poverty.

IAMCO, a Caymanian charity that works toward the alleviation of poverty solely within the Caribbean region, has joined with Scottish International Relief to provide meals for children in Haiti.

The programme, called Mary's Meals, will distribute daily food to children at school, said a IAMCO press release.

According to SIR, "Feeding needy children in school nourishes vulnerable children and at the same time encourages school attendance and improves school performance."

IAMCO has agreed to two significant grants that will help provide 135 school children with two daily meals in the rural district of Hinche and a similar project will feed 4,500 children in Cite Soleil for one year. The cooking and serving of the food will be carried out by local volunteers.

The director of IAMCO, Graeme C. Thomson, said, "We, as a charity, are thrilled to be involved in this project. Together with SIR we will continue to assist with poverty alleviation, particularly in Haiti, a country on our doorstep, yet a world, economically, so far removed from our own as to be almost unimaginable.

"We will, with others, continue our work to improve the dignity of all throughout the Caribbean. We look forward to a closer association with Scottish International Relief and any other organisations with similar goals."

## **Haiti in Extremis**

### **The Poorest Country in the Western Hemisphere Has Bigger Problems than Poverty**

**By Nicholas Eberstadt**

**The Weekly Standard**

**October 9, 2006**

A brief summer visit to Haiti--the beautiful, perpetually tormented tropical purgatory that occupies the western third of the Caribbean island of Hispaniola--cannot help but focus the comfortable and well-fed foreign visitor's attention on two profound issues of the modern era: the reasons for the persistence of so much misery in an ever more affluent world, and the practical measures that might permit our world's poorest countries to escape from the heart-rending deprivation that they continue to suffer.

Wendt Scholar Nicholas Eberstadt

With an area comparable to the state of Maryland and a population (at about eight and a half million) roughly the size of New York City's, Haiti is closer to Florida--just an hour and a half from Miami by jet--than is Washington, D.C. But in a very real sense, the distance between the United States and Haiti is almost unimaginable.

By the yardstick of income, Haiti is by far the poorest spot in the Western Hemisphere, and in fact one of the very poorest places on the planet. State Department and CIA guesses put the country's per capita income at about \$550 a year, or about a dollar and a half per day--but these formal, exchange-rate based estimates are highly misleading, if not meaningless. (Could anyone in the United States today survive for a year consuming no more than \$1.50 worth of goods and services a day?) A better sense of Haiti's plight comes from comparisons of purchasing power. Perhaps the most authoritative global estimates of this sort have been done by Angus Maddison, the eminent economic historian. At the start of this decade, according to Maddison, Haiti's per capita output was thirty-five times lower than that of the United States. To get a sense of what this means: Think how things would go for your family if you had to get by for the entire year on just ten days of your current earnings.

Haiti looks impoverished even next to other impoverished countries. By Maddison's reckoning, per capita purchasing power in Haiti is one third that of Bolivia, the poorest country in South America. There is no country in the Middle East or Asia with an income level as low as Haiti's, not even Bangladesh. And although sub-Saharan Africa is the epicenter of desperate poverty in the modern world, a majority of sub-Saharan countries enjoy per capita income levels that are higher than Haiti's.

Income numbers alone, however, cannot convey an accurate impression of the terrible deprivation that is the inescapable lot of the ordinary Haitian. For this, one must take a stroll through La Saline, or Bel Air, or any of the other wretched slums that account for most of the living quarters in Haiti's capital, the sprawling city of Port-au-Prince.

From high up in the hills that ring this city by the bay, the place looks sublime: On the horizon a perfect blue sky meets a shimmering sea to frame the vast metropolis below. The illusion is maintained only so long as one is sufficiently removed to view actual human beings. As one makes the descent into town, the picture quickly changes: The eye of Bierstadt is replaced by the eye of Bruegel, and then by the eye of Bosch. Once in the city proper, one realizes that the urban sky is so clear because Haiti is

too poor to have air pollution. Gasoline and diesel vehicles are out of almost everyone's reach, and garbage is too precious to be burned on the street. But Port-au-Prince is not too poor to have sewage: That humid choking stench is everywhere. Unending makeshift shacks stretch from clogged "canals," through which water the color of petroleum slowly trickles: This is at once the communal latrine and the water supply for washing the evening's cookware.

Tiny storefronts, stocked with a few handfuls of merchandise, advertise their wares with homemade signs in French or Creole (the Africanized French fusion most Haitians actually speak), but many--perhaps most--of the thronging passersby cannot understand these because they have never learned to read. Children are everywhere, many of them painfully thin--some are clothed, some partially clothed, others not clothed at all; not a few bear the marks of illness, infections, or growths that have never been diagnosed or treated. The graying decayed remnants of a few kites entangled on telephone lines provide the only hint that any of these children has ever possessed or enjoyed a toy. As for the grown-ups on the street, some seem agitated, some enervated, but almost all are shrunken and weathered, aged far beyond their years: Young women here look middle-aged, middle-aged men positively ancient. And these are the adults strong enough and healthy enough to be out on the streets: The victims of Haiti's chronic life-threatening epidemic afflictions--malaria, tuberculosis, and (now) HIV/AIDS--are more likely to be out of sight, in the hovels of the back alleyways, resting and trying to cling to life.

Yet things are even worse--much worse--for most Haitians than this bleak street picture might suggest. For there is an important qualitative difference between grinding poverty and utter misery, and Haiti today lies on the wrong side of that divide. These impoverished Haitians lack more than money, food, medicine, schooling, decent housing, shoes, clean water, and regular electricity: They also lack personal safety and physical security. Haiti is a territory trapped between a state of siege and a state of nature--a Hobbesian nightmare in which violent and well-armed crime gangs operate essentially at will, effectively controlling much of the area in which ordinary people have to live.

The personnel of most foreign embassies simply will not visit many inhabited regions of the country without armed escort--and are specifically enjoined from visiting other places (such as the Cité Soleil slum, home to perhaps half a million people) under any circumstances at all. The third day of my Haiti visit, word went around that a man had been not just murdered but deliberately beheaded on the same street as the U.S. ambassador's residence--an effective message to the island that absolutely no spot in Haiti is beyond the reach of the crimelords.

The more well-to-do Haitians I met spoke of the daily terror of crime and violence that they face--robbery, kidnappings, murder just for the fun of it--and these are the Haitians who can afford safer neighborhoods, protective walls adorned with barbed wire and broken glass, or perhaps armed guards. The greatest burden of crime, violence, and lawlessness falls on the poor. "We can't even hand things out to people in the slums--it would endanger them," explained a foreign social worker with nearly two decades' experience in Haiti's worst neighborhoods. "You know what would happen if we gave little radios? The bad guys would know about it right away--and they'd come into those homes to take the radios, and more."

Lest there be a thought that Haiti's poor have nothing to lose from gangs and crime but their radios, Dr. Jean William Pape, the latter-day Haitian-born Albert Schweitzer who directs GHESKIO, the country's leading HIV-research institute/clinic, told me that the connection in Haiti between violent chaos and

forcible rape was so immediate and direct that his staff compiles a "rape index" that serviceably mirrors changes in Haiti's security environment just by tabulating the number of victims streaming into his clinics after sexual assaults. In a country where the government does not even bother to compile crime statistics, this may be the closest thing to a proxy for local crime rates that exists.

Why is there no physical security in Haiti today? The problem speaks to an abject failure of both the government of Haiti and the U.N.'s latest Haitian intervention force (MINUSTAH--the Franco phone acronym for "United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti") in their most fundamental of charges.

The Haitian government maintains no standing army--merely a police force of perhaps 7,000. Only some of those police show up for work, and a troubling proportion of those who do show up are compromised, on the take from the very predators against whom they are supposed to protect the public. To put the problem in perspective, consider this: New York City--with a population roughly comparable to Haiti's, and an environment incomparably more stable and secure--employs about 35,000 sworn police officers, a force perhaps ten times larger than the number of reliable Haitian police (the latter scattered over a country about two orders of magnitude larger in area than the five boroughs).

Apart from the occasions when they are identified as abetting kidnappings or gang rampages, Haiti's police force is largely invisible. In my first two days of ranging through Port-au-Prince, I spotted police officers exactly twice--one of these instances being a spin near the presidential palace, the Haitian "White House." In the slums of La Saline I passed a police station--but no one seemed to be there. Where were the officers--hiding inside? Possibly so: The téléjoi--Haiti's national word-of-mouth grapevine and main communications medium in this densely-packed, illiterate nation--was saying that a band of police had just found themselves outgunned in Port-au-Prince in a shoot-out with local gangsters, and had retreated to their headquarters. The police situation, however, is said to be improving. U.S. embassy personnel informed me that Haiti was training new police recruits in classes of 250--at which pace, by rough calculation, Haiti could muster a New York City-sized police force somewhere around the middle of this century, assuming zero attrition or mortality.

As for MINUSTAH and their 8,800 soldiers and police, some Haitians have taken to calling them TOURISTAH. As one explained to me, "We see them in our best restaurants, dating our women, and on our nicest beaches. The only place we don't see them is where the crime and violence are taking place, where they are needed." Constrained by extraordinarily restrictive "rules of engagement," these U.N. forces remain far from their goal of "stabilizing" Haiti. Indeed, when U.N. secretary general Kofi Annan briefly visited Haiti in August to praise progress and call for more international aid, his advance team--even with the MINUSTAH force at hand--judged the security situation too perilous to risk scheduling a visit to Dr. Pape's model GHESKIO clinic, located in downtown Port-au-Prince.

In a purely arithmetic sense, Haiti's poverty today is a consequence of prolonged and severe economic retrogression--we might even say economic implosion. According to Angus Maddison's estimates, per capita GDP in Haiti is roughly 25 percent lower now, at the beginning of the new century, than it was in 1945. Per capita GDP was nearly twice as high in Haiti as in Bangladesh back in 1950--but by 2001, per capita output was higher in Bangladesh than in Haiti (by about 15 percent). And Haiti has been overtaken by Bangladesh not only in raw economic performance, but also in basic social performance:

By World Bank estimates, life expectancy today is fully a decade higher in Bangladesh than in Haiti; according to the U.N., in fact, Haiti's life expectancy is no higher today than it was 20 years ago.

Indications of protracted decline abound. According to the World Bank, Haiti's level of total cereal production is 20 percent lower today than it was in 1961: this, for a still predominantly rural society whose population more than doubled in the interim. Likewise, aggregate electricity generation is lower than it was a decade and a half ago--a modern record for futility surpassed perhaps only by Kim Jong Il's North Korea. Haiti once had a national railway line--but it is missing now, engulfed and absorbed in the brush. (Haiti has practically no forests--all the free firewood has already been taken.) Old State Department "Area Handbooks" speak of Haitian coffee as the country's main export; modern-day U.S. agricultural officials talk of "Haitian blue" in tones akin to the North American bison--i.e., a magnificent species, sadly no longer much seen.

For any small island economy, international trade is vital--yet Haiti barely engages in it. According to the World Trade Organization, total merchandise exports for Haiti in 2005 amounted to \$473 million, or about \$55 per person. And as with so much else in Haiti, trends are heading in the wrong direction. In the capital's tiny Port Authority, where cargo from vessels docked in the harbor is still unloaded mainly by hand, officials tell me that freight volume is down 50 percent over the past two years. Rough calculations suggest that Haiti--a country self-sufficient in nothing--is bringing in through its port system rather less than a pound per person per day of merchandise: food, gasoline, cement, trucks, clothing, paper, machinery--everything.

Haiti's other aperture to the world economy is an inland road through the highlands linking it to the Dominican Republic, its larger and markedly more successful neighbor on Hispaniola--but for the month before my arrival, that access point had been closed to all international commerce. It seems that Haiti had a newly appointed head of customs who entertained the peculiar idea of actually attempting to collect the statutory import duties listed on the books for incoming goods. Affronted and incensed, Haiti's major smugglers organized a trucking roadblock of the border, and then enforced it through menace. The government to date has proved incapable of lifting this self-embargo. There is quite a bit of talk about the lonely honest Haitian official at the center of this trade crisis. It is said, for example, that Transparency International is thinking of honoring him with an award--if he lives long enough.

It is no more than stating the obvious to say that Haiti's historical and political saga is intimately entwined with the dismal results we see today. We need not revisit every sorry stage and tragic step in the country's anguished 200-plus years of independence to understand the awful humanitarian spectacle. Yet the milestones of this historical legacy must be at least mentioned in passing. The African roots: over 100 tribes or peoples involuntarily transplanted to the New World to form the workforce of the French slave plantation system. The colonial interlude: the briefest, as a matter of fact, for any country in the New World (French rule in Haiti lasted only just over a century). The slave revolt: following the American Revolution chronologically, but informed by the merciless logic of the French Revolution, killing or driving out virtually all of the country's "white" former masters. And then, with independence on New Year's Day in 1804, the troubled triumph of this Black Spartacus nation.

In 202 years of sovereignty, Haiti has celebrated over 20 constitutions; nine presidents-for-life; a handful of self-proclaimed kings and emperors--and, if one is counting generously, three peaceful and

legal transfers of presidential authority from one legitimately elected government to the next, one of which involves the current occupant of the National Palace, President René Prével, who assumed office under MINUSTAH's aegis earlier this year.

Recurring military interventions from abroad are also part of the Haitian legacy, usually though not always by American forces. Most memorable were the 19-year Marine Corps occupation of the country that commenced during World War I; and, more recently, the U.N.-sanctioned American mission in the 1990s that temporarily restored to power Jean-Bertrand Aristide--the exiled, vengeful, radicalized, and corrupt, but popularly elected, president. (In 2004, when Aristide--reelected but by then disgraced--reluctantly relinquished the presidency of a Haiti in turmoil and disarray, U.S. Marines returned once again, before handing off international responsibility for the policing of Haiti to others under the United Nations flag.)

Haiti's heritage is so very African (only a tiny fraction of its people claim to be mixed-blood or "mulatto") that the West African traditions of the 17th and 18th centuries--the culture of modern Haiti's original enslaved ancestors--have not only survived, but taken on a life of their own in the New World. Voodoo is a touchstone here (a word, by no coincidence, that came from a language spoken in the West African country now called Benin). A local aphorism has it that "Haiti is 90 percent Catholic and 100 percent voodoo." Voodoo is, indeed, one of the country's two state-recognized religions. In its forbidding supernatural world, ordinary helpless mortals are at the mercy of a pantheon of loa and lesser undead beings--zombies, lousp-garous (werewolves), and the like--who must be feared, and may occasionally be traduced, but cannot always be propitiated.

The correspondence between voodoo and modern Haitian politics is more than incidental. Indeed, Haiti's most powerful and arguably most successful political figure from the past century--François "Papa Doc" Duvalier--was, literally, a voodoo doctor. "Papa Doc" had an M.D. in modern medicine, and trained at the University of Michigan--but he also carefully garbed himself in the dark black suit and the dour, unforgiving demeanor of Baron Samedi, the voodoo god of the graveyard. His control over Haiti was so total that his proposal to confer the next presidency-for-life upon his 19-year-old son "Baby Doc" carried a plebiscite by a vote of 2.5 million to one--so total that his decree to recast the Lord's Prayer as an appeal to the Almighty Papa Doc did not evoke laughter from the Haitians obliged to recite it. Papa Doc ruled through fear, and his agents of terror were his personal gangs of armed, unsmiling, sunglasses-wearing thugs. These were the tontons macoutes: creole for "bogeymen," another homage to voodoo. They were not Haiti's first criminal marauders in de facto authority, inflicting misfortune or tragedy by whim on the uncharmed and unlucky--nor, as we sadly see today, were they the last.

Modern Haiti has experienced a "withering away of the state," to borrow a phrase from Karl Marx, but not at all in the way Marx anticipated for his Communist utopia. The government has ceased to provide security and physical safety in any regular or credible fashion. It no longer provides regular and reliable postal service. Its provision of electricity and water is limited and irregular. Health services rely mainly on the charity of strangers (also known as foreign aid).

Hardly less important, the government has excused itself from the task of educating the nation's young. It is only a slight exaggeration to say there is no public system, or even structure, for primary and secondary education in Haiti. The Haitian government, as best I can tell, does not collect and

disseminate educational statistics any more--and has basically no idea how many of the country's children are in school, or out of it. There is no question, however, that the educational profile is dismal: According to the country's 2003 census, for example, less than a quarter of all Haitians live in families where the main provider has gone further than sixth grade, and half of Haiti's families rely on breadwinners who have no formal schooling at all.

Knowledgeable Haitians and foreigners with whom I talked guessed that maybe half or three-fifths of Haiti's children enter primary school these days, with maybe one third of that fraction completing their primary education. They also guessed that the Haitian government provides no more than a tenth of the spaces for primary school these days--the rest coming from private-sector "écoles" and "colleges," most of which are tiny, store-front for-pay operations whose modest tuitions nevertheless pose a grim food-or-schooling question to families who wish to see their sons and daughters get an education.

In today's Haiti, even a rudimentary education looks to be beyond the reach of the majority of children; mass illiteracy is the likely prospect for the rising generation. If the failure to provide security deprives Haitians of the environment in which material advance is possible, the failure to educate deprives the population of the tools by which to achieve such advance.

Where does foreign aid and foreign assistance fit into this gruesome tableau? In the United States and elsewhere, there are voices quick to attribute Haiti's dire circumstances to inadequate foreign generosity. According to the USAID "Green Book," however, Haiti received a cumulative total of about \$3.5 billion (in 2004 dollars) in American aid (economic and security assistance) between 1946 and 2004--that is to say, over the roughly six decades in which its per capita output achieved a decline of 25 percent. U.S. aid, moreover, was just one of many sources of concessional official transfers to Haiti. According to the World Bank, since 1969, Haiti has enjoyed a cumulative total of \$8.3 billion in official development assistance (measured in 2004 dollars).

To put these sums in perspective: The U.S. government places Haiti's official, exchange rate-based GDP for the year 2005 at \$4.3 billion. While there are reasons to remain skeptical about that precise figure, as already noted, we can be more confident about another measure of the country's economic performance: merchandise export earnings. In 2004, according to the World Trade Organization, Haiti generated a little less than \$400 million through international sales of its own goods. Against that benchmark, foreign aid transfers would amount to over two decades' worth of Haitian exports. Whatever Haiti's many problems may be, an inadequate volume of foreign aid is not one of them.

Although Haiti's prospects are severely clouded, the picture is not totally without hope. Haiti now relies upon a million-plus community of émigrés in the United States, Canada, and elsewhere for remittances that may be the country's most effective economic lifeline at the moment; those same émigrés could be pivotal in reconstructing and developing Haiti if the business climate warranted the effort, investment, and risk. Haitians are resourceful and hard-working, as their very survival under current conditions should attest. The nation of Haiti has capable, dedicated, and loyal allies, both foreign and domestic.

Some of the good works now underway are truly inspiring (among them, the Mother Teresa Missionaries of Charity home for abandoned children and the aforementioned GHESKIO HIV clinic/institute, both of which I had the privilege to visit). Other projects underway are incontestably

beneficial and worthwhile, such as the microfinance initiative at SOGEBANK, providing loans of a few hundred dollars at a time to striving market-women who can put these to good use. And against all odds, some initiatives are bearing fruit: The nation's HIV prevalence, for example, has been dropping in recent years, and may have been cut by as much as half over the past decade. But all of these individual pockets of promise are as exposed and vulnerable as sand castles at low tide--every speck of progress could be swept away, given the wild, unpredictable, and still-uncontrolled savagery into which this unhappy country has descended.

Haiti will be in a much better place than it is today when we can complain about corruption there. Haiti will be in a much better place than it is today when we can focus our policy criticisms on bureaucratic inefficiency, or wrongheaded economic and financial policies. What Haiti needs, more than any other single thing, is physical safety and security--for the sake of the poor as well as the rich. By itself, physical safety would constitute an immense improvement in the local standard of living (measured in any real human sense). An environment of safety and security would make it possible--at least theoretically--to achieve social and economic development and material advance.

For now, those desiderata are not even remotely realistic objectives. A cautious political survivor, President Préval now talks of "social appeasement" (a term that sounds no better in French or Creole than in English) and of opening a "dialogue" with the gangs that are murdering and terrorizing his countrymen. Safer streets are hardly the most likely outcome from such entreaties.

Under current conditions, foreign economic assistance--from the United States or elsewhere--can serve little more than a palliative function, akin to changing bandages on an open wound. While some will argue there is merit and even nobility in such service, we should have no illusions about what such service can--and cannot--do.

What do we--the fortunate souls holding U.S. passports, with warm beds and hot meals awaiting us--come home learning from a brief fact-finding sojourn to Haiti? In a sentence: Security comes first. First in the hierarchy of human needs. First in the prerequisites for economic progress. Nothing so elevated as "law and order"--apart from its unfondly remembered interlude under U.S. Marine Corps occupation in the early 20th century, it is not clear that Haiti has ever had that, and maybe not even then. Just physical safety and security.

Without security, efforts to better the national plight will be doomed to frustration, or worse. Foreign economic assistance will be mainly wasted, or worse. Humanitarian assistance efforts will find themselves on an endless treadmill. Economic and humanitarian assistance are no substitute for security and safety--cannot substitute for it, cannot themselves create it. And what holds for Haiti holds just as true for other tortured regions of the world where governments receive foreign aid, but local populations do not receive safety.

Nicholas Eberstadt is the Henry Wendt Scholar in Political Economy at AEI.

**France, Canada sign Haiti aid deal**  
**By NORMAN DELISLE**  
**Canada News**  
**September 29, 2006**

BUCHAREST, Romania (CP) - Canada and France signed a deal Tuesday to help rebuild Haiti that sets a framework for aid to other disadvantaged countries.

"We will work together for the development of this country," said Josee Verner, the federal minister responsible for La Francophonie. "Haiti is among our priorities." Her French counterpart, Brigitte Girardin, echoed Verner's commitment during the signing ceremony held at the summit of Francophone nations.

"This country was destroyed and this protocol which we signed today opens the door to a very close co-operation," she said. "Taking into account our involvement, it is necessary to provide mutual assistance and work together."

The text of the deal says Canada and France "will endeavour to accompany the efforts by the Haitian authorities to create conditions favourable with the rebuilding of a State in Haiti."

Particular support will be given to reforms in the areas of security and justice as well as economic development, which will see assistance in the form of co-financing of projects.

Verner pointed out the Canadian government had announced \$520 million in aide for Haiti last July. The amount will be spread over five years.

The Canada-France deal not only affects Haiti but sets out a framework for aid to other disadvantaged countries.

The protocol aims at the improvement of governing in the countries, mainly meaning an effort to seek improvements in the respect of human rights, prevention of conflicts, improvement in security and gender equality.

The new collaboration between Canada and France will be evaluated in the first quarter of 2007 at a meeting of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development to be held in Paris.

Quebec and Romania also expressed their desire to create a network of schools in public administration to improve the quality of the bureaucracy.

"All the countries that have succeeded have a strong and qualified civil service," said Premier Jean Charest.

**Dominican Republic arrests 108 illegal Haitian immigrants**  
**People's Daily Online**  
**October 8, 2006**

The Dominican army deployed on the border arrested 108 illegal immigrants from neighboring Haiti on Saturday evening, said reports on Sunday.

The Haitians were traveling on buses on the Guayubin-Montecristi road in the northwest of the republic, heading for the northern city of Santiago de los Caballeros. The army also seized 1.5 kg of marijuana aboard the buses.

The Dominican press said the arrest of 100 men, six women and two minors showed that Haitian immigration had been rising in recent days. The army said it arrested 223 Haitians this week.

"We are working hard to maintain control over those who are trying to enter the country illegally. We will not tolerate the trafficking of drugs and guns either," said General Cirilo Radhames Escarraman, commander of the army's 10th battalion.

Regino Martinez, a priest, ascribed immigrant smuggling to poor immigration controls, saying this opened the door for some officials to charge illegal smugglers thousands of pesos to enter Dominica.

Source: Xinhua

**Largest, Longest Study Of Children Of Immigrants Reveals Certain Groups Are Left Behind**  
**Pediatrics News**  
**Medical News Today**  
**08 Oct 2006**

While the vast majority of young adult children of immigrants experience upward economic and social mobility, a new study finds that a significant minority are suffering from lower levels of education, lower incomes, higher birth rates and higher levels of incarceration. Furthermore, it is the U.S.-born children of Mexican, Haitian and West Indian immigrants who experience these problems in the largest proportions.

The study, led by sociologists Ruben G. Rumbaut of UC Irvine and Alejandro Portes of Princeton University, appears online this week in the Migration Information Source. The largest and longest-running study of children of immigrants yet conducted, the study also confirms the critical importance of education.

"The greatest educational disadvantage is found among children of Mexican immigrants and Laotian and Cambodian refugees in our sample - close to 40 percent of whom did not go beyond a high school diploma," said Rumbaut. "Education is the key to successful upward mobility among children of immigrants, so the discrepancies that emerge in educational achievement among immigrant groups tend to persist in trends for income, employment and incarceration."

The researchers also point to the influence of human capital (the skills and education of immigrant parents) as well as family structure, racial prejudice and government policies toward certain immigrant groups - particularly the undocumented - that influence this "downward assimilation" process.

The researchers found that children of Laotian and Cambodian Americans as well as Haitian Americans had the lowest median annual household income at just over \$25,000. They were followed closely by Mexican American families, which had a median annual household income of about \$30,000. On the other end of the spectrum, children of upper-middle-class Cuban exiles in Southern Florida reported a household income of more than \$70,000, and Filipino Americans in Southern California had more than \$64,000, followed by Chinese immigrants.

Furthermore, the study found that the most educationally and economically disadvantaged children of immigrants were most likely to have children of their own at a young age, compounding their difficulties at pursuing higher education. When surveyed at the average age of 24, none of the Chinese Americans had children, while in contrast 25 percent of Haitians, West Indians, Laotians and Cambodians did, as did 41 percent of Mexican American young adults.

Differences in arrest and incarceration rates are also noteworthy, particularly among second-generation, U.S.-born, males. While only 10 percent of second-generation immigrant males in the survey had been incarcerated, that figure jumped to 20 percent among West Indian and Mexican American youths.

"Unfortunately, these trends perpetuate the racial and ethnic stereotypes that contributed to their situation in the first place," Rumbaut said. "On the positive side, we see that children of immigrant

families with little money and low human capital can move forward positively in American society. But there is clearly a minority segment among the native-born children of some immigrant groups that is getting caught in a cycle of downward mobility, and we need to understand the trends that drive this process."

There are more than 30 million U.S.-born children of immigrants. Rumbaut is continuing to explore the major events influencing the social outcomes of the immigrant second generation, focusing on early childbirth for women and incarceration among men.

About the Study: The surveys were conducted over more than 10 years with random samples representing 77 different nationalities originally drawn in 1991 in San Diego, Calif., and Miami/Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., of more than 5,000 respondents who were then in junior high school. The most recent surveys were conducted from 2001 to 2004 when the respondents were between the ages of 23 and 27. The surveys are part of the Children of Immigrants Longitudinal Study, which was designed to examine the in-depth interaction between immigrant parents and their children and the evolution of the young from adolescence into early adulthood. Results from the CILS surveys provide the most compelling current evidence to date of how the second generation adapts - from education and income to unemployment, family formation and incarceration. The study was funded with support from the Russell Sage Foundation.

About the University of California, Irvine: The University of California, Irvine is a top-ranked university dedicated to research, scholarship and community service. Founded in 1965, UCI is among the fastest-growing University of California campuses, with more than 24,000 undergraduate and graduate students and about 1,400 faculty members. The second-largest employer in dynamic Orange County, UCI contributes an annual economic impact of \$3.3 billion.

Contact: Christine Byrd  
University of California - Irvine

**Illegals would have bought birth certificates belonging to deceased Dominicans**  
**The Dominican Today**  
**October 9, 2006**

SANTO DOMINGO.- The president of the National Borders Council revealed that Haitians, Colombians and Cubans, would have bought birth certificates belonging to thousands of deceased Dominicans from the 2004 Solié river flood, in the Jimaní province, which means that "the dead revive with other faces".

Ambassador Radhamés Batiste informed that the false document sale has been instrumented by a Haitian Madame, well-known in Jimaní for her condition of a business woman who makes illegalities work without much effort.

"I do not have the legal faculty to stop these facts, reason why I use to this means in an effort to exhort those that have the faculties, to stop it, especially in the ID (cedula) offices, where these people would be caught flagrantly using false documents", expressed.

He also informed that a great amount of Haitians go to the Electoral Central Board offices to get a Dominican ID providing false birth certificates.

Ambassador Batiste reiterated that he has been working from 1990 on this problem, which he denounced, showing hard proof to ex-president Joaquin Balaguer during the 1994 electoral campaign, denunciation that unfortunately was taken as a campaign subject and was later forgotten one more time.

He indicated that at a later date he, as Borders Ambassador presented the same denunciation, to Sergio Tulio Almánzar, but a conclusion was never reached.

The National Borders Council president, emphasized that a Dominican super father "at less than 60 years of age had more than 50 children, some of them, older that the father himself" had been targeted for investigation, the man lives in Batey 6 (Sugar Refinery) in Barahona, answers to the nickname of Tin-Ton-Ton and Almanzar had been properly informed, but it is not known yet if any investigations have been effected on the case.

He said that like Tin-Ton-Ton, many more in that sugar cane zone, continue producing illegal birth certificates today, and he assures these are not only used by Haitians, but also by Colombians and Cubans.

## **LEGISLATION INTENDED TO AID HAITI, AFRICA**

### **Trade bill nixed over textiles**

### **Carolinas lawmakers help spur block, saying it would hurt U.S. jobs**

**JAMES ROSEN**

**McClatchy Newspapers**

**The Charlotte Observer**

**September 29, 2006**

WASHINGTON - Republican congressmen led by lawmakers from the Carolinas have blocked a trade bill that they say would harm American textile producers by enabling China to ship cheaper clothes and other goods to the United States.

In an unusually bitter revolt against a powerful committee chairman, the GOP lawmakers persuaded Speaker Dennis Hastert to pull legislation intended to aid Haiti and sub-Saharan Africa by lowering or eliminating U.S. tariffs on garments exported from those countries.

"Textiles are still an extremely important business in South Carolina and throughout the South," Rep. Gresham Barrett, an S.C. Republican, said Thursday.

Barrett and other lawmakers from textile-producing states were upset by the actions of Rep. Bill Thomas, a California Republican and author of the Africa and Haiti measure. They said that he introduced the bill Sept. 21, then bypassed committee hearings and rushed it to the floor for a vote this week.

In a letter to Hastert and other House Republican leaders, the textile lawmakers complained that the measure would give apparel made from Chinese fabrics, but assembled in Haiti and Africa, duty-free access to the U.S.

"This will be devastating to our domestic textile industry and places at risk the almost 700,000 textile and apparel jobs that it provides in the United States," the lawmakers wrote.

The letter was signed by 16 Republican lawmakers, including Reps. Robin Hayes, Charles Taylor, Walter Jones Jr., Virginia Fox, Howard Coble and Sue Myrick of North Carolina, and S.C.'s Barrett and Rep. Joe Wilson.

Congressional sources said Hastert pulled Thomas' bill partly so as not to embarrass GOP representatives who face stiff re-election challenges and hail from major textile states, such as Hayes and Taylor.

Textile lobbyists in Washington said the legislation would ease a requirement that most duty-free garments imported from Haiti or sub-Saharan Africa be made with at least half American-made fabrics, or with fabrics containing at least half American-made yarn.

That loophole, they said, would enable China to produce clothes in Haitian and African garment-assembly factories, then sell the goods to Americans.

"The Chinese will use these loopholes to ship product through as if it's coming from these countries," said Richard Dillard, spokesman for Milliken & Co., a major textile firm based in Spartanburg.

In introducing the bill last week, Thomas said its chief aim was to help alleviate poverty in Haiti and sub-Saharan Africa.

Lloyd Wood, spokesman for the American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition, said the bill would hurt U.S. workers. The group lobbies on behalf of 40,000 workers at textile mills, furniture factories and other plants. "The result of (Thomas' measure) is that U.S. producers lose market share," Wood said. "When U.S. producers lose market share, it means that North Carolinians and South Carolinians lose their jobs."

## **'Papa Doc' strongman Luckner Cambronne, 77, dies in Miami**

**BY JACQUELINE CHARLES**

**Miami Herald**

**September 29, 2006**

He was one of the most feared men in Haiti, a reigning symbol of Duvalierism who eventually fell victim to Haiti's turbulent politics before he, too, was forced to pack his bags and flee.

But even in exile, Luckner James Cambronne never gave up on returning to Haiti and the pinnacle of power he lavishly enjoyed during the 14-year dictatorship of Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier.

Cambronne died Sunday at Baptist Hospital of pneumonia following a three-year bout with kidney disease and diabetes. He was 77.

"He watched every occasion in Haiti, always trying to put something on track," said longtime friend and author, Anthony Georges-Pierre. "Luckner was a cornerstone, and many people will find themselves missing a wing."

For Duvalierists -- borne out of Haiti's 1946 revolutionary movement aimed at having the black middle-class seize power -- Cambronne will be missed. Among the last of an aging breed, he routinely held strategy meetings at his South Miami-Dade home focused, at first, on returning himself and Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier to power. Later, they were focused on others to lead.

### **CHIEF 'MACOUTE'**

Cambronne was a "Duvalierist," a devoted disciple of the country doctor who in 1964 declared himself Haiti's President-for-Life, and engineered a 29-year family dictatorship. Upon Papa Doc's death in 1971, Cambronne played a pivotal role in the transition of power from father to son.

A poor preacher's son, Cambronne went from bank teller to presidential confidante and power broker. He developed a reputation as Papa Doc's chief extortionist, or head "Macoute" who, wearing dark glasses, shook down and jailed Haitian businessmen. The funds were to be used to build public projects, but critics say they were used to line Cambronne's and Duvalier's pockets.

"He was into everything," Bernard Diederich told The Miami Herald. Diederich, who lives in Miami, penned the book Papa Doc and wrote about Cambronne's December 1972 exile from Haiti for Time Magazine in the article, "The Fall of a Shark."

After Papa Doc's death, Cambronne was known as "Vampire of the Caribbean," for his program of supplying Haitian cadavers to U.S. medical schools, and selling Haitian blood at a profit.

"He was not a bad guy," said Georges-Pierre, noting that both schemes were legal. "He was misunderstood."

Georges-Pierre, who devoted several passages to Cambronne in the biography, Francois Duvalier: Titan or Tyrant, said Cambronne was loyal and "a valiant servant" who did a lot to help Haiti. As minister of public works, he introduced a toll system, which allowed the government to build roads, schools and airports.

Accused of stealing millions of dollars from Haitian government coffers, Cambronne, who was born in the coastal town of Arcahaie outside of Port-au-Prince, told The Miami Herald in 1989 that he was not a bagman.

"They say I have millions and millions of dollars, but it's not true. I am not a millionaire," said Cambronne, who ran a coffee business in Miami. "I am a Duvalierist for life. If you call a partisan of Jean-Claude Duvalier a Tonton Macoute, then, yes, I am a Macoute."

#### LOYAL FAMILY MAN

Nadine Patrice, Cambronne's daughter and a Haitian-American activist, said a lot of "misinformation" has been written about her father.

"As a family man, he was really great," she said. "He is a very loyal person and dedicated. If he tells you he's going to do this, he's going to do this. He's a person of action. Passionate and very loyal."

He was also forgiving.

Several years ago, he and his wife took in Marie Denise Duvalier, the broke and divorced sister of Baby Doc. She and her ex-husband Max Dominique have long been accused of orchestrating Cambronne's exile during a power struggle with Baby Doc. It is said it was payback against Cambronne, who months earlier had allegedly convinced Baby Doc to oust his sister and brother-in-law. Marie Denise Duvalier, who still lives with the Cambronne family, declined to be interviewed.

"His love for his friends and his family is deep," said friend Georges-Pierre. "I believe he left in peace."

In addition to daughter Nadine Patrice, Cambronne is survived by his wife, Ina Gousse Cambronne; daughters, Myrlande Constant, Marie Francoise, Martine Cambronne, Guerda Prezeau and Josette Baptichon Julmelus; and sons Luckner Francillon and Anael Francillon.

Viewing is from 5 to midnight tonight at Woodland Funeral Home, 11655 SW 117th Ave. The funeral service is 11 a.m. Saturday at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, 11291 SW 142nd