



ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

WASHINGTON, D.C.

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PERMANENT COUNCIL

July 26, 2002

M. Victor Benoît  
Espace de Concertation

M. Gérard Pierre-Charles  
OPL

Pasteur Luc Mesadiou  
MOCHRENAH

M. Hubert de Ronceray  
MPSN

Convergence Démocratique  
105, Avenue Lamartinière, Bois Verna,  
Port-au-Prince  
Haiti

Dear Sirs,

Many thanks for your letter of the 23<sup>rd</sup> instant which renewed the commitment of the Convergence Démocratique (CD) "to the quest for a negotiated peaceful solution to the political crisis in Haiti," and which I received just prior to an informal meeting with Ambassadors, convened on July 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss, *inter alia*, the Sixth Report of the OAS Mission to Haiti, (CP/doc. 3625/02), with which you are familiar. The Ambassadors took careful note of that Report as well as of the positions of the Government of Haiti and of the CD reproduced therein. In addition, I used the opportunity to share your letter to me with them.


Several Representatives were encouraged by your expressed willingness to "sign immediately an initial Accord that takes these proposals into account and to participate in a national dialogue and any initiative that ensures security, justice, respect for human rights and effective governance in Haiti". They noted that all these elements comprise the mandate of the OAS Special Mission, functioning since April, and expressed the hope that the work of the Special Mission could be strengthened. All Representatives lamented the clear impasse in the political negotiations being facilitated by the OAS since August, 2000, with the active participation of CARICOM.

Some expressed the hope that your letter of July 23<sup>rd</sup> was an indication that it might still prove possible to break the impasse. Nonetheless, a clear majority urged that given the difficult socio-economic situation of the country, it is important that the Hemispheric and international community assist the people of Haiti in their just aspirations, both for the establishment of a truly democratic society and for desperately-needed improved living conditions. Many held the view that the OAS is obliged to accompany the Government's execution of the commitments made in President Aristide's letter of July 9, 2002.

A majority of the delegations indicated quite clearly that they were sympathetic to the need of the opposition in Haiti for security and other assurances and that the OAS should make every practical effort to help create the conditions conducive for genuine elections to take place. However, they also expressed disappointment that the CD is not demonstrating the flexibility that is needed now to reach an initial Accord under which the OAS could begin to help address your valid concerns. For example, many also noted that some of the matters raised by the CD in its letters of July 9 and 23 fall outside of the mandate of the Organization of American States. I urge your careful attention to these views.

I have no doubt that a call will be made for a Special Meeting of the Council to be convened within the next week to formally consider the issues. Indeed, delegations are already addressing their minds to the text of a resolution that might emanate from such a meeting.

Please accept, Sirs, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Roger F. Noriega  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the United States of America  
and Chair of the Permanent Council

cc: Dr. César Gaviria  
Secretary General

Ambassador Luigi R. Einaudi  
Assistant Secretary General

Ambassadors, Permanent Representatives

*CONVERGENCE DEMOCRATIQUE*  
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Port-au-Prince, July 23, 2002

Ambassador Roger Noriega  
Chair of the Permanent Council  
Organization of American States  
Washington, D.C.

Excellency:

On the occasion of the upcoming OAS Permanent Council meeting on the Haitian crisis, the *Convergence Démocratique* wishes to renew its commitment to the quest for a negotiated peaceful solution to this crisis.

On July 11, we sent the Assistant Secretary General a counter-proposal to the Initial Accord, which reflects our position. That position is as stated below:

A solution to the Haitian crisis must involve democratic, fair, free and transparent elections and an effort to gain, through national dialogue, a consensus to build a state in which the rule of law prevails, by reinforcing security, building a democratic institutional framework, respecting human rights, promoting economic and social progress, good governance and transparency.

In order for genuine elections to take place, we require:

- A clear commitment to the path of democracy, which would involve the implementation of OAS resolution 806, as well as recommendations from the Independent Commission of Enquiry into the events of December 17, 2001.
- An independent and qualified Provisional Electoral Council (CEP), based on consensus, one that inspires respect and that operates in a transparent fashion. We are prepared to contribute to the establishment of such a Council.
- A political environment that is conducive to the holding of fresh elections and that will guarantee fair conditions for the competing sectors.
- A government of consensus that is able to reassure the political parties and the citizenry of its democratic vocation and its commitment to the holding of credible elections.
- A public administration that serves all and that does not interfere in elections.
- Police reform, involving the depoliticization and professionalization of the police, which would inspire confidence in its impartiality and effectiveness.
- Technical and economic support for the electoral process.

- International participation in observing the elections.
- The practical involvement of the international community in the process of implementing this Accord.

It seems to us, therefore, that for implementation of the Accord, specific evaluation criteria and indicators over time, subject to regular reports by an entity coordinated by the special Mission, would be essential.

The *Convergence Démocratique* is ready to sign immediately an initial Accord that takes these proposals into account and to participate in a national dialogue and any initiative that ensures security, justice, respect for human rights and effective governance in Haiti.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of our highest consideration.

Victor BENOIT  
*Espace de Concertation*

Gérard PIERRE-CHARLES  
*OPL*

Luc MESADIEU  
MOCHRENAH

Hubert de RONCERAY  
MPSN

cc:           Ambassador César Gaviria  
                  OAS Secretary General  
  
                  Ambassador. Luigi Einaudi  
                  Assistant Secretary General

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