



Organización de los Estados Americanos
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Organization of American States

Office of the Secretary General

July 1, 2002

Your Excellency,

I have the honor to forward herewith a copy of the *Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the events of December 17, 2001 in Haiti*, and to request that it be circulated to the members of the Permanent Council.

Please be advised that on June 26, 2002, I delivered to the Government of Haiti, through Ambassador Raymond Valcin, Permanent Representative of Haiti to the OAS, copies of the report in French and English.

I am also pleased to inform you of the work of the Advisory Council on Reparations to consider compensation for organizations and individuals who suffered damage as a direct result of the violence of December 17 2001 in Haiti (CP/RES. 806 of 16 January 2002).

According to the Advisory Council's Terms of Reference, the Council was to "present a report to the Ministerial Committee established to indemnify the direct victims of the violence that began on December 17, 2001, and continued for several days." On June 14, 2002, the Advisory Council transmitted to the Ministerial Committee a report in which it established the types of damage incurred and the general criteria to govern indemnification for such damage. In its report, the Advisory Council reaffirmed the obligation of the Government to indemnify the direct victims and it submitted a number of general recommendations under which such indemnities should be awarded. This should take into account both the obligation to indemnify and the exceptional nature of the losses incurred. The Council concluded its report by expressing its hope that just compensation would be provided to the victims as expeditiously as possible.

On June 14, the Advisory Council also presented its analysis of the cases it had received as of that date, determining in each case whether the party concerned was a direct victim and therefore should be indemnified. To date, the Advisory Council has issued its opinion on 35 cases presented before June 14 and on 13 additional cases subsequently presented. The Government of Haiti set a deadline of June 25 for the presentation of claims.

With the submission of the Reports of the Commission of Inquiry and of the Advisory Council to the Ministerial Commission, the establishment, since March, of the OAS Special Mission for Strengthening Democracy in Haiti and the on-site visit from May 28 to 31, 2002 of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the OAS has fulfilled the mandates pertaining to it that were contained in CP/RES. 806.

Assistant Secretary General Einaudi and I will be pleased to discuss any of these issues with members of the Permanent Council.

Organization of American States
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Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



César Gaviria
Secretary General



His Excellency Roger Noriega,
Chair of the Permanent Council and
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the United States to the OAS,
Washington, D.C