



REPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

Jean-Bertrand Aristide
Président

Port-au-Prince, July 9, 2002

Excellencies:

I have the honor to address you concerning the position of the Government of Haiti on the Initial Draft Accord, negotiated by the political parties of Haiti through the facilitation of the Organization of American States in the persons of your esteemed selves, and concerning the resumption of normal economic cooperation with the Government of Haiti.

As President, I wish to reiterate and reconfirm to you the full support of the Government of Haiti for the agreement of all political parties to the Initial Draft Accord as the best way forward toward a resolution of the political and economic crisis, which the people of Haiti have long needed and demanded.

The Government has done, and continues to do, everything possible to facilitate the agreement of all political parties to the terms of the Initial Draft Accord presented by the Organization of American States. Fanmi Lavalas has already accepted the Accord and agreed to sign it. The people of Haiti demand and urgently need an end to the political and economic crisis, and their well-being requires all Haitians to rise above politics and parties and reach agreement with one another on the way to move forward together. The Initial Draft Accord provides this way forward.

Of course, the Government cannot compel any party to sign the Initial Draft Accord. Neither should it be held responsible for the refusal of a party, for reasons of its own, to sign the document. Nor should the people of Haiti, in desperate need for relief from the economic crisis brought on by the suspension of normal international economic cooperation with Haiti, continue to be penalized for the fact that the Initial Draft Accord has not been accepted by all parties.

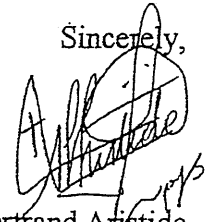
Accordingly, the Government calls upon the Secretary General to continue to use his good offices to move the process forward and urge the international financial institutions to consult immediately with the Government of Haiti to arrange for the soonest possible resumption of normal economic cooperation with the Government of Haiti.

Toward that end, I am enclosing with this letter a document prepared by the Government of Haiti, which constitutes its formal endorsement of the Initial Draft Accord presented by the OAS on 12 June 2002.

I wish to express my deepest appreciation for the efforts made by the OAS and CARICOM toward achieving a peaceful and democratic resolution of the situation in Haiti.

Please accept assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jean Bertrand Aristide', written over a horizontal line.

Jean Bertrand Aristide

Ambassador Luigi Einaudi
Deputy Secretary General
Organization of American States

Honorable Julian Hunte
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Republic of St. Lucia

**Endorsement by the Government of Haiti
of the Initial Draft Accord Presented by the OAS on 12 June 2002**

The Government of Haiti hereby gives its formal endorsement to the Initial Draft Accord, presented by the Organization of American States to the Haitian political parties on 12 June 2002, as accepted by Fanmi Lavalas on 13 June 2002, and pledges to honor its commitments as Guarantor of said Accord, and to fully implement all of the measures that the Accord calls upon it to implement. The Accord is incorporated herein by reference, and attached hereto as Annex 1.

The Government remains committed to do everything within its power to facilitate an agreement by all parties to the Initial Draft Accord, which it considers essential to the well-being of all the people of Haiti, and which is necessary to move forward with the economic and social development of the country, to strengthen democracy and the rule of law, and to create the climate for national elections that are free, fair and democratic and which all political parties can participate freely and securely.

Toward these ends, and especially to facilitate the acceptance by all political parties of the Initial Draft Accord, the Government of Haiti hereby pledges to continue to implement the provisions of OAS Resolutions 806, 1831 and 1841, and to undertake the following additional confidence-building measures not contained in the Initial Draft Accord:

I. Elections

The Government of Haiti pledges to hold national elections in the second quarter of 2003 for the election of Members of Parliament to replace those who were elected on May 21, 2000 -- and who agreed to sacrifice two years of their mandate to facilitate a political agreement for the benefit of all Haitians -- and the members of the territorial collectivities. To assure that these elections are free, fair and democratic, the Government of Haiti agrees that they will be celebrated according to the conditions set forth in the Initial Draft Accord. (See Annex 1).

II. Procedures for Reparations

The State will pay reparations to any agencies, institutions, organizations and individuals who suffered damages in connection with the attack on the National Palace on December 17, 2001, in compliance with paragraph 4(d) of Resolution 806 and paragraph 9 of the Recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry into the Events of December 17, 2001. The State reserves its right to seek damages from persons found to be responsible for destruction of State property.

The Minister of Justice will continue to meet with attorneys for the claimants to reach a final agreement on procedures to assure prompt and effective payment of reparations, and execution of standard releases acknowledging full and final settlement of outstanding claims, based on the Accord signed by the Minister of Justice, claimants and their

representatives on 9 July 2002, attached hereto as Annex 2. This Accord will facilitate reparations for all victims, and sanctions for those responsible for their injuries.

III. Prosecution of Persons Found Implicated in the Events of 17 December 2001

In conformity with paragraphs 4(b) and 4(c) of Resolution 806 and paragraph 7 of the Recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry into the Events of December 17, 2001, the Government of Haiti has delivered the full Report of the Commission to the Ministry of Justice for its review and appropriate action, including, where the evidence warrants, prosecution of any person found to be implicated in the events of December 17, 2001 and subsequent days.

Within 60 days of the receipt of the Commission Report, the Minister of Justice will publish a report on actions taken with respect to persons found to be implicated in the events of December 17, 2001 and subsequent days.

The Government of Haiti wishes to make note that, in regard to its ongoing compliance with paragraph 4(c) of Resolution 806, the National Police arrested two persons in June 2002 for the murder of Brignol Lindor; both have been incarcerated pending trial. Further, the Government wishes to make note that, on 9 July 2002, a new Investigating Judge, Bernard St. Vil, was formally appointed to take charge of the investigation of the murder of Jean Dominique.

IV. Reforms to the Judiciary and Police

In accordance with paragraph 6 of Resolution 1841, and in furtherance of its purpose "to combat impunity and place the highest priority on strengthening judicial institutions," the Government of Haiti accepts and agrees to implement the Recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry into the Events of December 17, 2001 set forth in paragraphs 1 through 6 of the Commission's Recommendations.

The Report recognizes that implementation of these Recommendations, and the achievement of the goals of "an efficient, effective and impartial judiciary," and a more professional police force that "functions in an impartial, neutral and just manner," require the provision of sufficient technical and other assistance and resources from the International Community; accordingly, the Government calls upon OAS Member States and other interested parties and institutions to make such assistance and resources available for these purposes.

V. Disarmament

Disarmament is an urgent issue of importance for the security of all Haitians. The Government of Haiti declares its intention to strengthen its disarmament policies and programs and, in this regard, invites the active cooperation of the International Community, through the Organization of American States Special Mission on the Strengthening of Democracy in Haiti, in the development and implementation of a comprehensive disarmament program.

VI. Human Rights and Press Freedom

The Government of Haiti understands and agrees with the importance attached in the Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Events of December 17, 2001 to the question of human rights (Recommendations 10-14). Accordingly, the Government undertakes to implement, to the fullest extent of its lawful authority, all the Recommendations on Human Rights and the Press set forth in the Report, and to cooperate with the OAS Special Mission on the Strengthening of Democracy in Haiti and other appropriate international institutions on such matters.

The Government recognizes the importance of all other Recommendations in the Report that are, in whole or in part, directed to it, and hereby undertakes to implement them.

VII. Cooperation with the OAS Special Mission on the Strengthening of Democracy in Haiti

The Government of Haiti recognizes the critical role that the OAS Special Mission on the Strengthening of Democracy in Haiti should play in the areas of security, justice, human rights, democratic development, governance and institution-building, as well as in assisting in implementation of the Recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry into the Events of December 17, 2001. The Government reaffirms its intention to take the necessary steps to assure full cooperation with the Mission.

VIII. Resumption of Normal Economic Cooperation with the Government of Haiti

By the undertakings set forth in this document, the Government of Haiti has effectively accepted and agreed to implement: (i) the provisions of the Initial Draft Accord presented by the OAS to the Haitian political parties on June 12, 2002; (ii) the Recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry into the Events of December 17, 2001; and (iii) those provisions of Resolution 806 that remain to be implemented.

The Government has done, and continues to do, everything possible to facilitate the agreement of all political parties to the terms of the Initial Draft Accord presented by the Organization of American States. Fanmi Lavalas has already accepted the Accord and agreed to sign it. The people of Haiti demand and urgently need an end to the political and economic crisis, and their well-being requires all Haitians to rise above politics and

parties and reach agreement with one another on the way to move forward together. The Initial Draft Accord provides this way forward.

Of course, the Government cannot compel any party to sign the Initial Draft Accord. Neither should it be held responsible for the refusal of a party, for reasons of its own, to sign the document. Nor should the people of Haiti, in desperate need for relief from the economic crisis brought on by the suspension of normal international economic cooperation with Haiti, continue to be penalized for the fact that the Initial Draft Accord has not been accepted by all parties.

Accordingly, the Government calls upon the Secretary General to continue to use his good offices to move the process forward and urge the international financial institutions to consult immediately with the Government of Haiti to arrange for the soonest possible resumption of normal economic cooperation with the Government of Haiti.

July 9, 2002