

(as prepared for delivery)

Statement of Ambassador Luigi R. Einaudi
U.S. Representative
to the Ad-Hoc Meeting of Foreign Ministers on Haiti
Organization of American States
December 13, 1992

Continuing efforts by the Organization of American States to restore democratically elected government in Haiti have demonstrated in very concrete terms the developing commitment to democracy that is one of the most promising characteristics of the inter-American community.

Working together, the nations of our Hemisphere are seeking to ensure that democracy, preservation of constitutional government and respect for human rights are translated from the sphere of ideals into the juridical reality of the OAS Charter and, most importantly, into the reality of daily practice throughout the Americas.

Speaking for the United States, our commitment to the restoration of democracy in Haiti is unwavering. The violent interruption of the constitutional order must not be allowed to stand. We continue to recognize Jean Bertrand Aristide as the constitutional president of Haiti. We accept the principle of nonintervention which is the cornerstone of the inter-American system. We are proud of the steps taken in recent years to develop the jurisprudence of democratic solidarity in this hemisphere. Finally, we believe mutual trust and confidence are essential to our cooperation.

We applaud the OAS Secretary General's efforts to bring about negotiations among the Haitian parties. We applaud his efforts to maintain close contacts with the various surviving democratically elected elements of government in Haiti, particularly the Parliament. We agree that these efforts should include all relevant sectors of Haitian society.

We believe that it is important that there be a mediator who can work intensively to assist the Haitian parties to reach a democratic political settlement and encourage Mr. Manley to accept the Secretary General's offer to act as a facilitator to negotiations.

We are greatly disturbed by the continuing violence in Haiti which undermines chances for constructive negotiation. We condemned in the strongest terms the violations of human rights that occurred in Haiti during the coup, and which have occurred with disturbing frequency in ensuing months. We welcome the UN Special Rapporteur's report on Haiti and commend him for his work, which we know from his membership on the Inter American Commission on Human Rights.

We agree that politically-motivated violence against regime opponents and general repression increased immediately after the September 30, 1991 coup. Our reports, however, indicate that the worst violence and repression ended after a few months and that the situation, while still grave, has not deteriorated further. We have continually urged all parties in Haiti to refrain from further violence and to observe fundamental principles of human decency.

We are encouraged by the recent deployment into the countryside of the OAS civilian mission to Haiti. We believe that this mission can play a positive role in improving the political climate by reducing the fear which has impeded fruitful negotiations and by helping to improve the human rights situation in Haiti. We believe this mission should be enlarged and given access to all parts of the country as an integral part of OAS efforts to bring about a settlement.

However, the OAS can accomplish little without the full commitment of its member states, and without the support of the international community for policies of this hemisphere. We strongly believe that an increased United Nations role would help current OAS efforts. The United States supported the recent resolutions in the OAS Permanent Council and the U.N. General Assembly which call for the U.N. Secretary General to take necessary measures to assist the OAS Secretary General in finding a solution to the Haiti crisis.

We welcome the naming of Dante Caputo as the U.N. Secretary General's Special Representative for Haiti, as a sign of the increasing importance the international community places on a resolution of the Haitian crisis. Our resolution today asks both the Secretaries General of the U.N. and the OAS to consult further on how to give further life to this broader international interest. Discussion of the Haiti problem within the U.N. Security Council is one possibility -- one which we strongly endorse, as we have discussed today. In addition, the example of ONUSAL in El Salvador comes to mind as a possible model that could be followed jointly by the OAS and the UN in Haiti as a means of providing security and institutional support to all sides in Haiti.

We believe it is essential to strengthen democratic institutions in Haiti to ensure that democracy will take root and flourish in that country. A vital ingredient for the success of any political settlement is support from the international community to create an independent judiciary, able to investigate and prosecute crimes and safeguard constitutional rights and freedoms.

Institutional support also could be provided to help strengthen the legislative process. Support will also be needed for a professionalized military that is subordinate to civilian authority; that will uphold the constitution; and that will respect human rights. Only with strong democratic institutions and a separation of powers within the government will democracy be protected.

We believe OAS efforts to date have been severely hampered by lack broader support within the international community. Failure to act in concert to deny petroleum supplies, for example, dealt a major blow to the negotiated solution developed in late 1991 and consummated in the February 1992 Washington accords. Similarly, lack of a clear international commitment to Haiti's institutional and economic future have deprived negotiations of needed elements of direction and security. Finally, lack of humanitarian assistance has increased the suffering of the Haitian poor, while the profiteers of violence prosper.

Today's resolution opens the way to remedying these lacunae.

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