

Remarks of Ambassador Luigi R. Einaudi
U.S. Permanent Representative to the OAS
Special Session of the OAS Permanent Council
January 28, 1992

I want to join in expressing condemnation of the attack on Saturday, January 25, against Rene Theodore, and against other democratic party leaders.

Rene Theodore is a leader with the political courage to stand forward as a peacemaker. Those who know him personally describe him as a man who has an interest in, and the talent for, reconciliation. In a hemisphere experienced with violations of the right to life and the right to assembly, this attack, the death of Theodore's bodyguard, and the physical intimidation of peacefully assembled political leaders strikes numerous chords.

The attack is a setback for the efforts of the OAS and OAS Member States to assist in the restoration of democracy in Haiti. The attack is also a setback for Haiti, for it undermines Haiti's only avenue away from the disaster towards which it is headed if willful and violent minorities are allowed to direct the course of events.

Those responsible for the attack must come to realize that we stand united in our condemnation of their actions and united by our solidarity with the majority of Haitians who rightfully demand that their freely elected president be restored to the legitimate exercise of his authority. We affirm our solidarity as well with those Haitians of all political persuasions who are determined to restore the rule of law, and rejoin the Americas on the path of democratic development.

To the solidarity of the nations of this hemisphere I think we should add the firm and constant accompaniment of an important group of nations outside the hemisphere: the OAS Permanent Observers. From the beginning, the OAS appealed to the international community for political support, for observance of the embargo and the financial freeze, for help with humanitarian assistance, and with preparations for the staffing and funding of OEA-DEMOC.

Earlier today, I called privately for closer efforts of coordination with the European Community and the countries of the European Community. The U.S. Mission has been in close contact with interested Observer State governments. We have exchanged and are exchanging information and views, we have maintained and will intensify ongoing consultation in keeping with the spirit of the OAS effort. This call for close cooperation is premised on the conviction that our joint OAS effort can

only benefit by taking full advantage of the genuine support and interest of the European Community and its Member States who participate as Observers in the OAS.

Mr. Chairman, let me call attention to two final matters of importance before concluding my remarks.

First, human rights. The attack on Saturday was a flagrant abuse of human rights, resulting in the loss of life and injury to several persons. It was also a violation of the right to assemble. In its own way it reenacted the coup of September 30, itself a violation of the most basic right of peoples to elect their leaders. In the wake of the coup we have heard credible reports of frequent human rights violations. And the OAS Inter-American Commission on Human Rights was able to offer some preliminary confirmation of some of these violations and identify issues and cases for further investigation. We support the full-scale, on-site investigation of which Commission Chairman Patrick Robinson spoke in his remarks to this Council on January 8.

Second, Mr. Chairman, let me read the U.S. Department of State's press statement on Haiti released today (Jan. 28):

Under OAS auspices, a Chilean plane carrying 19 metric tons of powdered milk provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development and 11 1/2 metric tons of medical supplies provided by the Pan American Health Organization and the Chilean Government left Baltimore-Washington International Airport today for Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

The Haitian people are victims of an illegal regime. They have suffered the loss of their freely elected democratic government. The OAS, with the support of the United States, imposed an embargo on Haiti to promote the return of democracy. This shipment is part of an ongoing international humanitarian effort to which the U.S. is contributing substantially. It is meant to mitigate the suffering of the Haitian people brought on by the failure of those in power to move toward a solution to Haiti's crisis.

We call on those in power in Haiti to resume OAS-sponsored negotiations to restore democratic constitutional rule; to approve President Aristide's nomination of Rene Theodore as prime minister; to restrain the security forces from violent acts such as last weekend's attack on a peaceful meeting of political leaders; and to prosecute fully all those responsible for the killing of Rene Theodore's bodyguard. (end quote)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(Informal Translation)

OAS Permanent Council Declaration
on the Crisis in Haiti
January 28, 1992

All USOAS
ARA/CAR: Mr. Becelia
ARAP: Mr. Peters
D: Ms. Likins
C: Mr. Foulon
P: Mr. Kelly
AID/LAC: Amb. Michel

THE PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES:

DEEPLY DEPLORES the grave attack against Mr. Rene Theodore and other Haitian political leaders that occurred in Port-au-Prince on Saturday, January 25, and resulted in the death of one of those persons accompanying Mr. Theodore;

CONDEMNS energetically those groups that, by the use of violence and armed coercion, continue violating the human rights of the people of Haiti, thus promoting the destabilization of legitimate sectors of government and blocking the efforts the OAS is carrying out with the full support of the totality of the hemispheric community, in seeking to facilitate a dialogue that ensures the processes and guarantees that make possible the reestablishment of constitutional government;

RECALLS the decision of the inter-American community expressed in resolutions 1 and 2 of the Ad Hoc Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Relations to adopt, in conformity with the OAS Charter and international law, the appropriate and necessary measures to ensure full functioning of the democratic system in Haiti;

EXPRESSES its interest that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights can, as soon as possible, intensify all the measures within its reach to protect and defend human rights in Haiti; and,

REITERATES its conviction on the importance that OEA-DEMOC be established as quickly and fully as possible throughout the territory (of Haiti) with the purpose of observing the process of reestablishment of constitutional order in Haiti.

Date: 1/29 92

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All USOAS
Staff Officers