

UPDATE AND TALKING POINTS FOR MR. LEHMAN: HAITI

- General Cedras has now appointed, and the Haitian National Assembly has confirmed, a new Prime Minister who is a respected human rights advocate. However, the United States Government still firmly opposes the institutionalization of the military junta in Haiti.
- President Jean-Bertrand Aristide is currently in Caracas, Venezuela, and is in consultation with the Organization of American States and the United States Government.
- President Aristide has agreed to remove his unpopular prime minister, Rene Preval, has recommitted himself to upholding civil and human rights in Haiti (including using due process in prosecuting the perpetrators of the coup and their supporters), and is being open and flexible about the conditions under which he will resume leadership of his country. He has, however, refused to negotiate with the military junta.
- Following the imposition of the trade embargo, Venezuela and Mexico announced that they will cut off all oil to Haiti.
- The United States and Panama have frozen all Haitian bank assets. The United States has over 77% of all Haitian trade.
- There are over 15,000 U.S. citizens in Haiti. 2,500 have voluntarily left the country. The State Department expects that U.S. flights to evacuate Americans will resume in the middle of this week (Oct. 14-18).
- The OAS trade embargo voted on October 3, 1991 authorized "all necessary means" to reestablish the democratically elected government of Haiti. A civilian/political mission under the OAS (the "OEA-DEMOC") has been proposed on paper which would provide:
 - (a) administration of justice,
 - (b) political, and
 - (c) a peacekeeping force of lightly armed police, probably drawn from St. Lucia.The Haitian military junta has rejected the peacekeeping force option.
- At this time, the State Department and the OAS are concentrating on (a) implementing the trade embargo, and (b) evacuating their nationals from Haiti. The OEA-DEMOC mission option is being held in reserve until the first two issues are instituted.
- While President Aristide has officially requested that no violent force be used to reinstate him, and President Bush has indicated that the U.S. would be disinclined to resort to force, both the Venezuelans and the Colombians have indicated

some interest in a military strike option both to protect their nationals and to reinstate President Aristide.

- There is concern in the State Department that the trade embargo, rather than bringing the coup leaders to their senses, will provoke greater chaos and violence in the country. If that happens, a military option might be reconsidered by the U.S. Government in consultation with the OAS.
- At the time of the coup all US AID was cut off. As part of the agreement with the OAS for the institution of a trade embargo, however, humanitarian aid to non-governmental organizations was resumed. Peace Corps volunteers have been withdrawn pending the reestablishment of the democratically elected regime.
- There are \$100 million in appropriated State Department funds which were scheduled to be used in Pakistan. Before the coup, the Foreign Ops. Subcommittee requested that \$15 million be set aside for use in Haiti. These funds now may be requested for use in a future peacekeeping force in Haiti.
- Six months ago, an adviser to President Aristide met with the Foreign Ops. Subcommittee. At that time, AID recommended the use of ISOTAP funds for training of a professional police force by the U.S. Department of Justice. This suggestion was not followed through on by AID/State/Justice, and the U.S. Ambassador warned at the time that the start of such a program would serve only to alienate the Haitian army.